

Mouth of the River

Issue 4 - March 5th - Oyster River High School - 55 Coe Drive - Durham, NH - 03824



It is *exactly* what
it looks like...

Mouth of the River Issue 4 March 5, 2008

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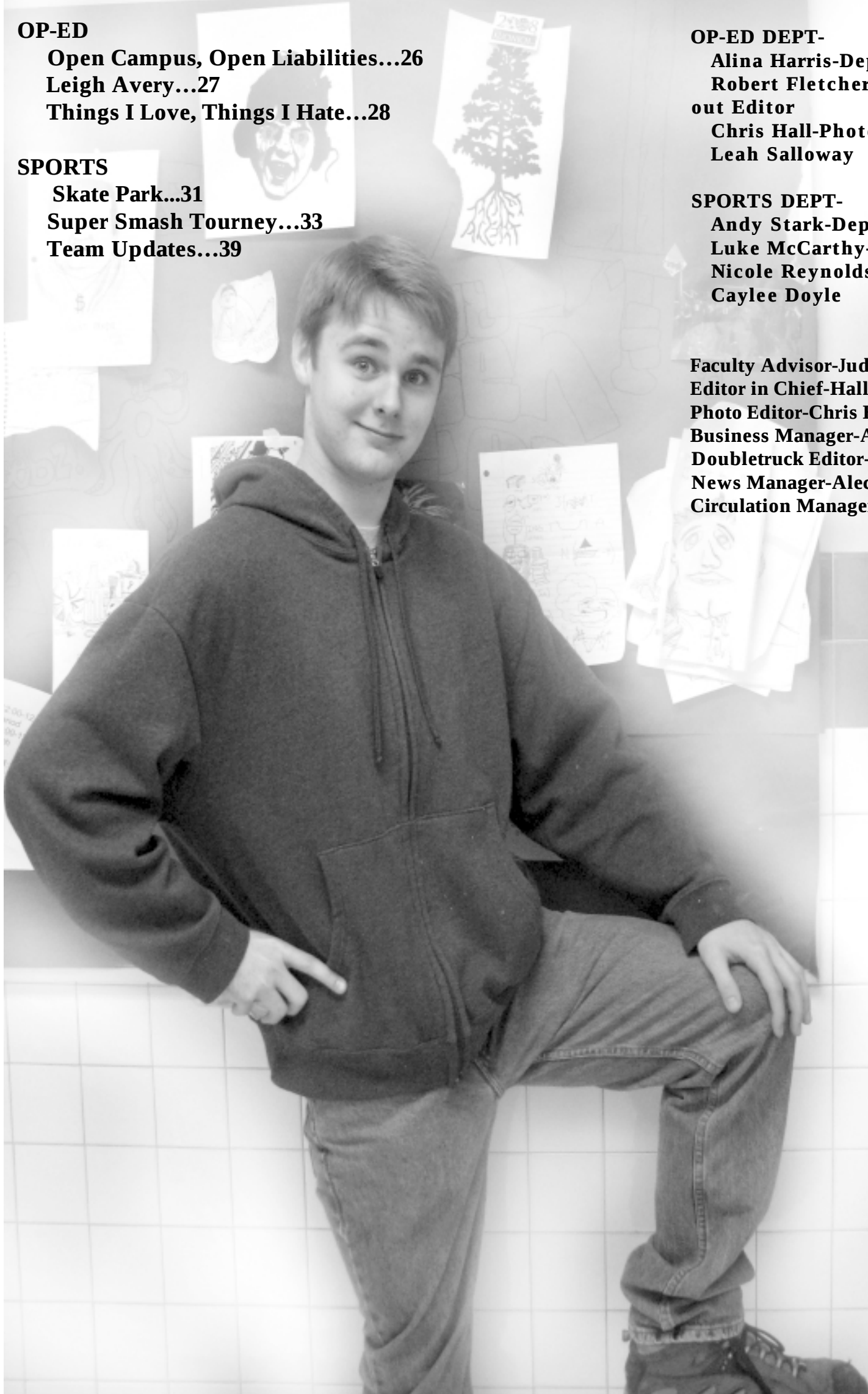
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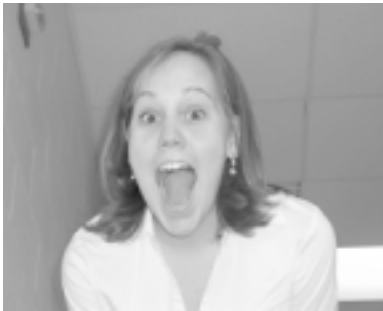
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By HALLIE GREMLITZ

NATE HARDY: TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN SOLDIER



Chief Special Warfare Operator Nathan Hardy, 29 years old

young man who was affected a great deal by Josh's illness and death," said math teacher Dave Nichols. "Nathan fit that saying of "wearing his emotions on his sleeve" perfectly. It was easy to know how Nate felt about an issue. He was also extremely loyal to his school and his friends." Other family members include Hardy's parents Stephen and Donna, both employed by the University of New Hampshire, older brother Ben of Vermont, and wife Mindi and seven month old son Parker.

For most students at Oyster River High School, the war in Iraq is a distant thing that is hard to make connections to or relate to. Perhaps it's due to the fact that we've been fighting there for so long, or because the news on TV just doesn't have the same effect as it used to, or because Iraq is such a far away place. Whatever the reason is, on Tuesday February 5th 2008, for most people in Durham, the war seemed a lot closer to home when the news of fallen soldier Nathan Hardy reached our shores.

Nate was confirmed dead on Monday February 4th 2008 while serving in the line of duty. Hardy was in Iraq on his fourth Tour of Duty. He was a member of Oyster River High School's graduating class of 1997 and joined the Navy SEALs soon after graduation. While still in high school, Hardy's older brother Josh Hardy succumbed to cancer. "Nate was a very emotional

Although most people in Oyster River today never knew Nate Hardy, his death is nevertheless a very relevant issue for teachers and students alike. Several teachers generously shared their memories of Nate and his time here at Oyster River.

Biographical information gathered from www.unionleader.com



Nate, Your smile, curiosity and compassion will always be a treasure. Love. Dad, Mom and Ben

A baby picture of Nate submitted by his parents for his 1997 senior yearbook.



Nate Hardy's senior picture, (first from the left, bottom row), from 1997 ORHS yearbook.

Nate Hardy —
TOALLMyBUDDIESAGSF
CMMBMRCACQDMCSMB
KPMSSMLNAGPromaG1st
BerandMETALLICACARat
DogSMBNchosKWILovUMs
ENdlSPoolGMSDlandJAIt
wasFunLIFEISOURWELIVE
ITOURWAYShippingoutMA
+ PAThanxforEverything
AndtoHripBROTHER

Nate's senior memories from ORHS 1997 yearbook.



Sherif, Mike, Eric, Matt, Nate, Gut, Amo, Alvy, Merenda and Mono —
The Farag household will never be the same without you. It has been a true
pleasure having you part of our family and watching you and your friendship
grow. We wish you health, happiness and prosperity in your future.
— The Farag family

Nate was a hard-driving, fun-loving kid who danced to a different drummer than sometimes we adults wanted but he was always true to himself and loyal to those around him. I was not surprised to hear that he had chosen the service over college and when I found out he was a Navy SEAL I thought he had found his calling. I'm certain that Nate was a great patriot.

-Dave Nichols, High School Math Teacher

Nate Hardy, (front row, just left of center) with some friends in a picture from their senior year-book.



IRAQ WAR; FIVE YEARS LATER

By MAX DISESA

"It has been a night and day transformation since I have been here."

- Private Benjamin Williams

Following the terrorist led attack on the world trade centers September 11th, 2001, the Bush administration made a decision to invade Iraq. The growth has been slow, but approaching the 5 year anniversary, what have we accomplished? In the 275 million dollar a day campaign, what do we have to show for it? "I do feel we've made substantial progress" wrote Private Benjamin Williams in an e-mail. Williams was deployed in Iraq February, 2007, and will return home in May, 2008. "It has been a night and day transformation since I have been here."

The media in all its reporting does not paint an accurate picture of how far we have come. Time and time again, people doubted if the Iraqi's would finish writing a provisional constitution in 2003, or that sovereignty could be transferred to this Interim Iraqi government in the deadline, and finally people doubted whether or not elections could be conducted on the timetable presented in January 2005. Years later we have made leaps and bounds of progress which many people are unaware of.

"I feel as though all I see in the news is the death toll raising and how soldiers are paying with their lives for a war we've just been planning how to get out of ever since we got there," Senior Dragos Maftei reflects. This is a common viewpoint for many people; progress has been slow, but the whole concept of the media is sometimes not always reporting what's important or crucial, but what would get the most viewers tuned in. In the 2008 projected budget of nearly \$50 billion, it could create up to 700,000 Iraqi jobs. This is groundbreaking as with the increase of security the US has assisted in providing, the Iraqi oil revenue has soared through the roof. That money can be better siphoned into specific counties in Iraq to help with reconstruction and humanitarian relief.

For the most part, the war has taken a significant turn from when the US first invaded. "[Our] missions have turned from trolling for insurgents to distributing kerosene heaters, blankets, setting up neighborhood watches, or working on utilities. We work with the people to do these things, they do all the work, and we just provide the means" wrote Private Williams. He is a firm believer that history will be the ultimate judge on whether or not the time we have spent was a just cause. "Only the passing of time will see if we've made a clear difference or if it will just go back to the way it was once we leave."

Although we have dedicated approximately 275 million dollars a day-adding up to ~\$2 billion overall for the state of New Hampshire-we have made



Private Williams meeting General Patreaus

Iraq War Continued on page 5...

Iraq War Continued from page 4...

tremendous economic progress in Iraq. Iraq has seen a 7% increase in oil revenue and stands to see much more growth in the projected years to come. This could benefit the United States because the more oil that is being produced, the better our market becomes. We will see a noticeable drop-off in oil prices likely in the next year or so.

"I feel as though we don't know enough about Iraq to make a serious judgment. I think knowing a little more about what we've been doing and significant progress that's been made makes me feel better about our time spent. On the other hand, we've paid a heavy price to fund this war, both financially and with American lives" notes Senior Matt Campbell. The position held of Iraq is mostly that of eager anticipation of our withdrawal of troops. However, the civil war is over, and violence and attacks have never been lower. Children can now be seen playing in the streets, shops and restaurants have now re-opened, and even nightlife is rejuvenating. The rough patch is passed, and there are talks of amnesty and a cease fire agreement between the Sunnis, Kurds and Shiites. The job is not completely over, and if a withdrawal is rushed, some feel it could be detrimental to our overall progress in Iraq.

Private Williams believes the hard part is for the most part, over. "It's not like I am out there painting a street in Baghdad with my assault rifle in the other hand." If we stay in Iraq we gain to benefit from increasing security, ending once and for all the hostilities which have plagued Iraq for thousands of years, and help produce an unprecedented amount of oil the country has ever seen. Like Williams preached, only time will tell whether or not our stay has been a positive one, and with the upcoming elections we will soon find out one way or another how committed the country is to the War in Iraq.



Private Williams showing off his sense of humor

alist campaign" to increase our resources by force and aggression. Iraq was switching to accept payments in Euros rather than Dollars; had this precedent been set, all other major oil producers would do this as well, causing the Euro to be the world's reserve currency, replacing the Dollar. This would ensure the destruction and eminent collapse of the United State's economy. The US can now refuse payments in Euros, thereby maintaining the Dollar as the reserve currency. Although the war effort has cost us approximately \$500 billion, can you really put a price on the survival of our way of life?

Our invasion force consisted of 250,000 soldiers of which, 3969 have died in combat. In militaristic terms, any casualty rate below the 20% of the overall force is acceptable. Our rate right now is .016%, which as far as the military policy goes, is a very acceptable figure. This may seem like a callous philosophy but casualties are unavoidable in a war, you will always have deaths. With the loss of Nate Hardy it makes you question whether or not that figure factors in personal ties. However I do not believe his death was in vain. World War Two had approximately 405,000 United States deaths, while Vietnam had ~58,000. In our modern day warfare, clearly we are doing something right in minimizing our casualty rate.

The situation in Iraq has improved dramatically. No longer is there a civil war, and the Iraqi economic situation has yet to be rivaled in their history. We are still in a war, and the killing hasn't fully stopped, but the violence is at an all time-low since the invasion. I think we could've made better decisions going into the war, and maybe gone about it a different way; ultimately I think we've accomplished an amazing amount, and made too much significant progress that if we withdraw it would unravel everything we've done in the past 5 years.

In our occupation of Iraq, we have witnessed Iraq go from a brutal dictatorship, to electing an interim government ratifying a new constitution for a more permanent government. We've seen the complete transformation of Iraqi's military size, capability and responsibly, which is a key proponent in sustaining the changes we have helped come about. We have defeated the Al Qaeda in Iraq and made them witness the full force America has to offer. In our efforts, we have preserved the US economy while significantly boosting Iraq's as well. Turning our backs now and withdrawing our troops would be a modern equivalent of handing Germany back to the Nazi's post-WW2.

I support Rumsfeld when he said, "Now is the time for resolve, not retreat," and I agree with the kindergarten mentality of "If you break it, fix it." We have a job to finish and we are fighting the right battle to spread democracy and freedom to nations who don't have the opportunity to experience them. The Iraqi people want the coalition to succeed; they do not want extremists to prevail. They risk their lives, along with American soldiers, to secure their country and to quench the thirst they have for freedom. Imagine if France deserted us on the climax of the Revolutionary War, and turned their backs on us in our quest for freedom. We had 3,000 miles as a buffer to plot our revolution, imagine if we were in Iraq's situation and had no such luxury. America would be a lot different, and it is our obligation to give other countries a chance to taste what freedom feels like. Don't be so quick to cast off the importance of uplifting oppression and alleviating countries of their tyrannical rulers; once upon a time we were that nation who needed help and now we have a chance to make a substantial difference-what would you do with that power?

How I came to love the Iraq War

This article was extremely difficult to write because there were so many angles to cover in making it a coherent piece, and with the recent death of Nate Hardy, it made me question whether or not this was appropriate. However, in my extensive research I found out some disquieting discoveries which effectively countered my view on our time spent in Iraq. I went from not fully supporting our efforts to believing very truly in the cause of "Operation Iraqi Freedom." In my opinion, this war had benefits to not only Iraq, but the United States as well.

What people don't comprehend is how valuable Iraq and the Middle East are to our economy. People constantly underestimate the value of oil and play it off as some "imperialistic campaign" to increase our resources by force and aggression. Iraq was switching to accept payments in Euros rather than Dollars; had this precedent been set, all other major oil producers would do this as well, causing the Euro to be the world's reserve currency, replacing the Dollar. This would ensure the destruction and eminent collapse of the United State's economy. The US can now refuse payments in Euros, thereby maintaining the Dollar as the reserve currency. Although the war effort has cost us approximately \$500 billion, can you really put a price on the survival of our way of life?

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Private Williams catching some sun on the Iraq beach

ALEC'S CORNER
Democracy for Dummies

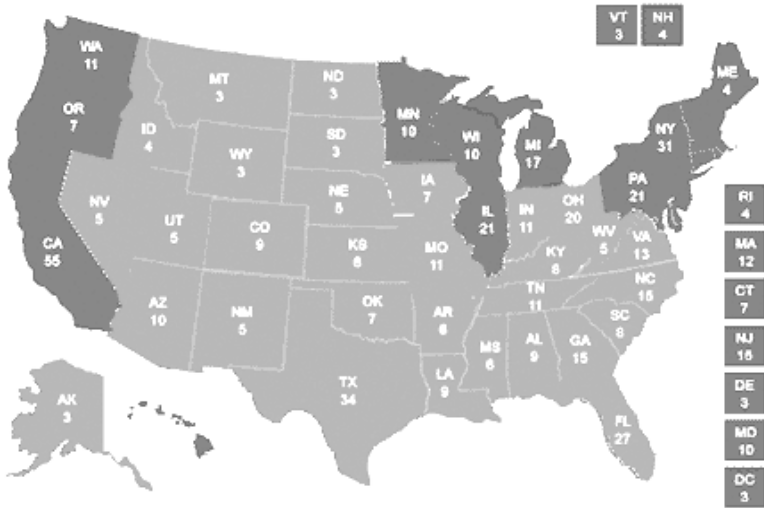


By ALEC SCHIDLOVSKY

With maybe the most important presidential election in history right around the corner, the candidates hoping to win the White House in November are currently taking part in the series of elections known as the primaries and caucuses, but how many Americans actually know how this process works?

First off, time for a basic overview. This series of elections (primaries and caucuses) is the process by which supporters of the Democratic and Republican parties, in each US state, say which candidate they would like to see representing their party in the presidential election in November. That's the basic overview, but what exactly are the primaries and caucuses and why are they so important in the election process?

The main purpose of the elections is to win delegates. Each state gets to send a certain number of delegates to the parties' national conventions in the late summer. This is where each party's nominee is formally chosen - and the primaries and caucuses determine which candidate those delegates vote for. To get more specific, a delegate is basically a person who is selected by the candidates to go to their party's national convention and vote for them. Essentially the candidate who gets the most votes at the convention will win the nomination for their party and therefore be placed on the ballot for the November presidential election.



Now that we have a general understanding of what a delegate is...

Caucus procedures vary according to state law. In most states, such as Iowa, voters meet in private homes, schools and other public buildings to discuss the candidates and the issues. They then elect delegates to the county conventions. County convention delegates elect delegates in turn to state conventions, where delegates to the national conventions are chosen. At Democratic caucuses, the voters sometimes publicly divide into groups, gathering in different corners of a room to show their support for the different candidates, and delegates are allocated accordingly. Republican caucuses usually take the form of a secret ballot, the results of which inform the allocation of delegates.

In primary elections, all registered voters in a state directly vote for their preferred candidate. The Democrats have a strange system. In order to win the Democratic nomination, presidential candidates need to win 2,025 delegates. On

one hand they award delegates on the basis of how much of the percentage of the vote the candidates win. On the other hand, 1 out of every 4 Democratic delegates are called "Super Delegates", people like Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Jimmy Carter, John Kerry....Elected officials high up within the party who can go with whomever they want, some of them endorsing candidates while the campaigns are happening. There are 4,000 Democratic delegates, 800 of which are "Super Delegates". The "Super Delegate" system was put into place after George McGovern lost badly in '72 and the party wanted to make sure they could have enough interior power to correct a mistake. So Obama could actually get more votes than Hillary and still lose if the majority of Super Delegates keep breaking her way.

The Republican system is far easier to understand and pretty clear cut. You need 1,191 delegates to win the nomination, period. Many of the primaries for Republicans is a "winner take all" system where you get all the delegates in all the precincts you've won, and then you get so many for winning the state. When Romney won Nevada, he took 18 delegates, while Ron Paul and John McCain each got 4, whereas on the Democratic side, since the percentage of the vote was close enough, Hillary and Obama each got 12, and then a Nevada rule says they had to draw cards for the tie-breaking delegate. Yup, that's pretty crazy.



To spend four months criss-crossing the country meeting voters is a good test of a candidate's strengths and weaknesses, and it gives Americans lots of opportunities to decide which politician they like best. Also, a little-known candidate who does well in the early caucuses or primaries has a chance to attract financial support, and organize a strong campaign. The shorter the primary campaign, the less time there is for an outsider to gather momentum. So as you go to the voting booths and put pens to ballots, hopefully you will now be more informed and better able to make the right choices as we fast approach the most important presidential election, ever!



WILL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES LOWER YOUR COLLEGE TUITUON?

You have just sent out your last application a few weeks ago and the stress of writing essays and filling out endless forms starts to melt away. But you receive a letter in the mail from a college that you applied to, and upon opening you see that it is Financial Aid information. Suddenly your once happy thoughts turned grim. How am I going to pay for this?

This is not an unfamiliar scene. Many high school students are gearing up for the transition to college, and have been exposed to the extreme costs of higher education. It seems as though every year the ceiling of tuition costs is raised higher and higher, and it is quite frightening to people looking to get a higher education. "Yes, I am concerned; it seems outrageous to pay \$4,000 to take a single course of calculus. It's ridiculous!" says college bound senior Sam Hochgraf.

If you feel like college education costs or education reform in general is an important issue, you may be able to express your opinion with your vote. Education reform and the high costs of education is definietly an issue that has been debated by the candidates. Higher education and its costs, however, are not as prevalent of a topic. On every presidential debate you hear the candidates say they are pushing for

“On every presidential debate you hear the candidates say they are pushing for "change". But how will this change affect your future, and how much you pay for your higher education?”



By CHRIS HALL

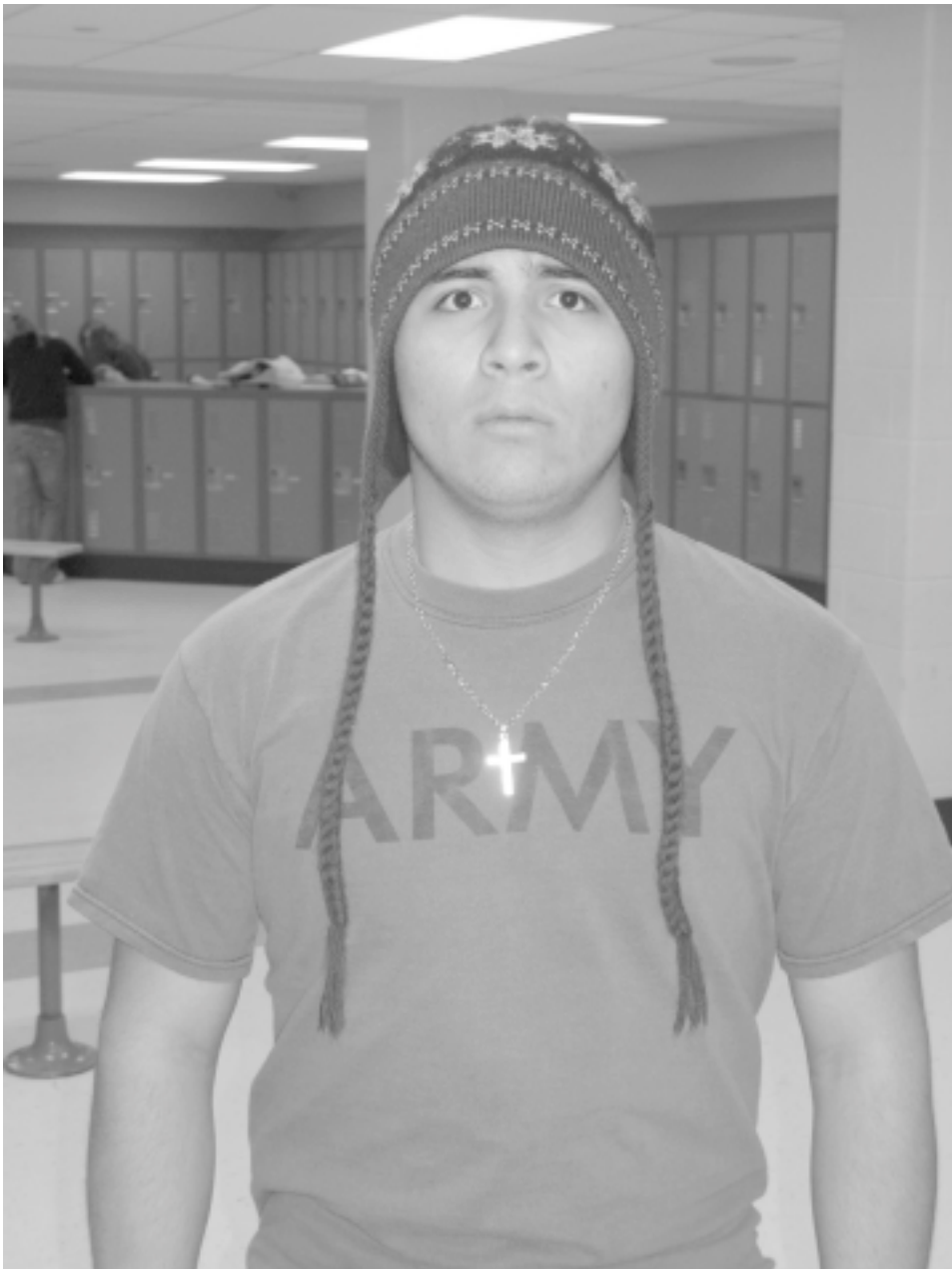
"change". But how will this change affect your future, and how much you pay for your higher education?

Republican and Democratic views are differing when it comes to higher education. "It tends to be the Democratic candidates to offer lucrative benefits," says Social Studies teacher Mr. Pappas. "Republicans tend to want to cut the fees

and possibly offer tax breaks," he adds. Another system mostly backed by leading Democrats is one where kids will volunteer in the community, and have In-State tuition paid for them in return. There are similar organizations with that concept already in existence such as "Americorps", which will exchange volunteer work with student loan relief.

One candidate who is really taking a progressive approach is Barack Obama. According to his campaign website, he will make higher education more affordable with a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This will ensure \$4,000 of college costs is free for Americans, in addition to two-thirds of tuition. It would also make community college free for most people. Obama's website states also that he will "Streamline the financial aid process by

eliminating the current federal financial aid application and enabling families to apply simply by checking a box on their tax form, authorizing their tax information to be used, and eliminating the need for a separate appli-



Christian LaCourse looking concerned about the rising costs of higher education.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX, BABY



It made you giggle as a child and curious as a teen. Just reading this three letter word demands attention. Now that I have yours, from the famous words of Salt'N'Pepa, I think it's about time we talk about sex. The question is no longer should sex education be taught, but rather how should it be taught. Sex education in public schools has been a controversial issue in the United States for over a decade. With the HIV and teen pregnancy crises growing, sex education is most definitely needed. But, should schools teach comprehensive sex education, or abstinence-only sex education?

Sex education began in the roaring 20's with Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood. According to Planned Parenthood, it has transformed from a tiny organization in the 20's to becoming "...the largest promoter of sex education and abortion in the U.S. and in the world."

Good thing Sanger came around because modern American culture is very sexually oriented. Sex can be seen all over the media; in movies, magazines, TV shows, etc. Sex oozes from every pore of the culture and there's not a person in the nation who can avoid it. When it comes down to it, teenagers have sex. 25% of all girls and 33% of all boys have had sex by the age of 15. By age 17 the statistics have grown to 75% of all girls and 86% of all boys. The US has more than double the teenager's pregnancy rate of any country and has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases of any age group, with one in four young people contracting an STD by the age of 21. STD's, including HIV, can damage teenagers' health and reproductive ability. This shows that there is a greater need for sex education than ever before; students need the right information to help protect themselves. Therefore, with all of this knowledge, why is there such a demand to teach "abstinence-only" sex education?

According to Advocates for Youth, (a well known institute dedicated to helping young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health), "abstinence-only sex education is a form of sex education that emphasizes abstinence from sex to the exclusion of all other types of sexual and reproductive health education, particularly regarding birth control and safe sex." This type of sex education promotes sexual abstinence until marriage and either completely avoids any discussion about the use of contraceptives, or only reveals failure rates associated with such use. Proponents of abstinence-only sex education argue that this approach is better than comprehensive sex education for several reasons. They say that sex education should emphasize teaching a morality that limits sex until marriage and that sex outside marriage and at a young age has heavy physical and emotional costs.

Although sex at a younger age does have its consequences, it is your own personal decision to make. We all have our own morals, beliefs, etc. and that is where a main factor of abstinence-only education makes its debut. Religion is a main factor of the concept to wait until marriage. Minister Terry Sharbaugh, pastor of Durham Evangelical Church, explains that, "it isn't that Christians are 'pro abstinence' as much as we are 'pro marriage'. In Christian theology, sexual expression is something God created for the covenant of marriage. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is asked about the issue of divorce. His response is that 'from the beginning God created human beings as male and female and for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh.' (Matthew 19:4-5). That relationship called marriage is the only place in which Christians believe sexual intimacy should be expressed."

Minister Sharbaugh then brought up another point concerning religion and sex education. "When a sex ed. class...settles for the 'well you are all going to do it anyway so we'll show you how to do it safer', it is in effect walking away

By CHELSEA KOLTER



from what is truly the best education. Face it; this should be left to the family, not the school."

On the other side of the controversy lies the comprehensive understanding. Comprehensive sex education is a form of sex education that teaches abstinence as the best method for avoiding STDs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy and of infection with STDs, including HIV.

"Whether you're involved or not, when the occasion arises, it's hard to not give in," said Lily Burtis, a senior at Oyster River, rather matter-of-factly. With this fact looming in the air, according to sex ed proponents, it's important that when someone makes that decision to have sex, that they know how to have safe sex. Opponents of safe sex would say she shouldn't be having sex at all.

A major argument against comprehensive sex education is that opponents feel that this form of sex education encourages teens to experiment with sex. However, research shows the exact opposite. Teen pregnancy rates have steadily declined due to the increased use of contraceptives. The knowledge of contraceptive use comes from the curriculum based off of comprehensive sex education. Instead of using fear as a tactic to scare teenagers away from sex like abstinence-only sex education does, comprehensive sex education teaches that sex is a natural part of life and if you make the decision to have sex, there are many safe ways to do so. There is absolutely no hard data that shows that teenagers feel encouraged to be sexually active once learning about it and most teenagers would 100% agree.

Not only do teenagers support sex education in their high schools, but the majority of this nation does also. In a survey done by Advocates for Youth, 89% of the citizens support sex education in public schools. Should the other 11% of the country be able to decide upon what the children of the United States learn and not learn in public schools?

"When a parent came to me and told me they didn't want their child to partake in the sex ed. portion of health class, we

just gave the student another place to be during that class period," explained Principal Rogers in a very positive manner. "I'd say the parents for the majority are OK with the way we teach sex ed. here at Oyster River."

How exactly does Oyster River teach the sex education portion of health class? According to Rob Quaglieri, Oyster River High School's Health teacher, "ever since I've been here, we have taught abstinence as the best way to prevent the [risks]...but that's not always realistic. We would be doing a disservice by just teaching abstinence because there are a lot of students who aren't. It's important to teach them how to be safe."

Moral of the story: sex is not so hard to talk about. No matter how you approach the infamous conversation it's important to do so. The risk of STDs and teen pregnancy, although declining, is an urgent and practically irreversible problem. The key is preventing it. The problem is how? Is it through education about how to have safe sex, or is it teaching about abstinence? It's up to the the American public to decide.



Federal guidelines now define sexual activity to include any behavior that may be sexually stimulating, including even kissing or *hand-holding*!

THE FUTURE OF FOLLIES: ONE THAT SENIORS WILL RECOGNIZE?

By BEN WOODBURN



Senior Follies. Two words that will bring a tear to the eye of any hardened administrator. I've literally seen fire shoot from Mrs. Wotton's eyes whenever someone brings up the topic. Scary experience to say the least. All that aside, Follies season is rolling around again, and both students and faculty are eagerly preparing for it.

Follies has been a part of Oyster River for longer than most can remember, and is a chance for students to make fun of their school in a creative way. However, Follies has come under fire in the past years. The epic Follies of '05 seems to have lingered in the minds of administrators long after the class graduated. The senior class of 2005 put together a Follies that some people feel crossed the line. The Follies that year ended with a cake fight that enveloped the entire auditorium stage. Ever since then, Follies seems to have had more restrictions on it than before. Because of this, the class of 2006 made the decision to take their Follies off campus, so they could include more of what they felt they wanted to do. There is always fear and anticipation of what the students will think of next, and because of this there is a lot of pressure from the administration to keep things PG-13.

Essentially, the senior class is in charge of the writing and acting process of Follies. "We've already started writing skits," says Senior Matt Valley. So far, the class of '08 has come up with about a dozen skits that they want to perform, with more on the way. "We break up people into writing teams," says Heather



happens, and saying it doesn't is being ignorant and avoiding the truth." Hurting people's feelings is always an issue on people's minds as well. It's not uncommon for Follies skits to single students out, not always in a positive way. However, some students are saying for others to not take it personally. "Follies is about having a good time and laughing at your school, not hurting people," says Senior Max Harris, "So if you get singled out, don't take it the wrong way."

Teachers and students are constantly battling to meet in the middle and put on a Follies that is okay with everyone. "A student last year came up with the idea that we should put a rating on the show as if it were a movie," says Healy. "I think that would be a really good idea," says Kotlus, "That way we could put on the skits we want, and people won't be offended."

For better or for worse, this year's Follies is shaping up to be a Follies that has never been seen before. "Last year we really didn't have any problems," says Healy, "Parents complain every year, but last year it wasn't as bad. Hopefully this year will run smoothly." Follies of '08 is scheduled for May 22nd and 23rd.

Healy, class advisor of the seniors, "Each team is assigned one skit that they have to write the script and stage directions for." The writing of the scripts should be done by the end of March.

This year, the administration is keeping a close eye on the proceedings of Follies. "The one new thing this year is that there is going to be a committee of both parents and teachers overlooking each skit to make sure that everything is appropriate," says Healy, "We just want to make sure that nobody's feelings are hurt, and that nothing illegal is portrayed." It's true, there have been references to drugs and alcohol in the past. Hard to believe in a high school, I know. Most of these references involved scenes from parties, with kids passed out on the floor or playing a drinking game. There are also threats circulating that if students change the skits on the night of the show to do what they want, the curtain will be pulled and the students involved will not be able to walk at graduation. Some students feel like the administration is overreacting, and that the seniors should be allowed to do what they feel like. "You can't ban references to drugs and alcohol," says Senior Derrick Kotlus, "That stuff





WAVING GOODBYE...



By HALLIE GREMLITZ

TO GRADUATION TENTS

That warm June sun, setting softly over the baseball diamond creates an orange glow over the soccer fields as 180 students, in their caps and gowns, march outside to the sound of the jazz band playing "Pomp and Circumstance." Heading down from the courtyard by the cafeteria, into the bus loop and on to the grass to a multitude of applauding parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and neighbors, they gather under the enormous and infamous white tent that has been distracting underclassmen all week as it has slowly and tediously been put up. The setting is perfect as the tradition of Oyster River having an outside graduation is carried on for one more year.

But that's actually it; just one more year. As confirmed by Principal Laura Rogers, the class of 2008 will be the last class to have graduation outside under that gorgeous white tent that students wait all of high school to sit under and get their long awaited diplomas. Rain or shine, (and there have certainly been both extremes) family and friends have huddled together, or sat lazily on the grass as they've watched their loved ones receive what seems so unobtainable as a freshman walking into high school for the first time.

What happened you might ask? Principal Rogers provided some good insight into the reasoning behind the lack of tent and tradition. "A lot of it has to do with pressure from Durham tax payers to reduce our funding and budget. A lot of people see the \$8,000 tent for graduation as an unnecessary luxury... it come's down to saving a teacher's job or having a tent for graduation."

Sophomore Marisa Kang was clearly very shocked at the news of not having a tent for her class's graduation. "It makes me feel sad and alone...like I'm stranded on a desert island of sadness." Sophomore Kai Shidlovsky reacted in slightly differently than Kang. "I'm PISSED!" shrieked Shidlovsky as he slammed his head against a locker. "That really hurt- but it's nothing compared to the pain that those responsible will be feeling from my fist of iron!"

Although Kang and Shidlovsky are still sitting in the sophomore hallway in shock right now, they need not fear for there are other possibilities for graduation spots. "We can always do it in the gym and have a live feed to the auditorium, although it's not that attractive and there is limited seating." commented Rogers. "The idea of having it at the Whittemore Center has also been tossed around, and that would only cost us \$4,000 dollars, and less if we wanted to split the cost and the day with another district."

Rogers was not against continuing the tradition of having the ceremony outside on the soccer fields. "It's going to be up to the students to do the fundraising, whether they want to organize or not, possibly going to the PTO, or maybe even everyone pay class dues."

There's no denying that things have changed since this years seniors were those young freshmen crowded up on the third floor together. No more do we see people playing banjo or guitar in the stairwells. Senior Follies will forever cause more and more controversy over what is allowed and what is 'pushing the limit.' Tight Pants Tuesdays are a thing of the past, and seeing ten senior boys all dressed in bright orange jump suits on the same day is something underclassmen have no idea about. Perhaps the outdoor graduation tent is just another thing for teachers to store in their memories of what Oyster River used to be.

CLASS OF '09, WHICH TENT DO YOU
PREFER FOR YOUR GRADUATION?
LET YOUR ADMINISTRATORS KNOW!



COLLEGE NOT REALLY YOUR THING? TAKE A GAP YEAR!

By BEN WOODBURN



Imagine yourself one year from now living in a country in South America, working and coexisting with the people there and experiencing a totally new culture. Weird, no? Well this scene is a more possible future than it seems. High school seniors around the country are given opportunities like this one every year.

It seems as though the second you step foot into the high school as a senior, you are bombarded with questions about your future. Where do you want to go to school? What will your major be? The list goes on. Everyone pretty much assumes that you want to immediately head to college right after graduating. However, this isn't the case for all students. Some people would rather step back a little bit after graduating high school and try something new, not necessarily something their guidance counselor told them to do. This is called a gap year. People typically take a year off in between their senior year of high school and their freshman year of college. "I don't feel like it would be worth the time and money to go off to college right away," says Senior Hallie Gremlitz.

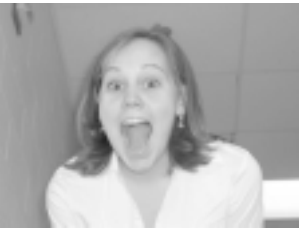
Gremlitz is planning on taking a year off and going to live in Panama. While there, she is going to partake in community service and complete a university study. "I don't think I'm going to get the opportunity to travel like this again in later life, so I'm taking advantage of this now," says Gremlitz.

Students who stray from the beaten path have a whole host of options for what they could do in their gap year. One option is to spend a year abroad in another country. Programs like Globoquest give students the chance to spend a semester in Thailand or Ecuador living with local tribes. "Instead of sitting in a classroom, you're out in the wilderness experiencing a new way of life," said Ellen Kirkland, who represented Globoquest at this year's gap year fair, "It's learning the way learning should be."

Another outdoor related option is the NOLS program. NOLS (National Outdoors Leadership Program) is a wilderness expedition program that gives people the chance to hone their outdoor skills. A NOLS participant, Jesse Beightol, said that "It's a really good way to meet new people. I did a NOLS semester in college and I just never left. It helps you figure out the direction you want to go in."

If the wilderness is not for you, fear not. There are lots of other programs that are available for students in need. City Year offers the chance to help with kids, and perform civil service in cities around the country. And yet another potential program would be the National Guard. Experience gained in that program could potentially lead to a promising military career.

Kids around the country are taking advantage of these opportunities and seeing education in a whole new light. "Taking a gap year can really help you to open up your eyes as to what you are interested in doing for the rest of your life," said Kirkland, "I think more kids should start taking advantage of them."



By HALLIE GREMLITZ



BABY MATTHEW KIDNAPPED BY BRITNEY SPEARS!!!

Well since the rest of the world is concerned with where Britney Spears is, Mouth of the River wants to keep you informed on her whereabouts. An anonymous source tipped us off at 3:17 this morning and said that Brit was last spotted in her Black Mercedes with K-Fed and the boys heading North on the Spaulding Turnpike towards Ossipee New Hampshire with Baby Matthew McCarthy in the back seat early this morning. Frantically trying to get in contact with Baby Matthew McCarthy, Chris Hall called several times to no answer, until finally the Baby Matthew picked up. Apparently Britney and K-Fed have decided to rekindle the old flame they once had, and want another son. Having heard about the Facebook group, "Adopt A Baby Matthew!!!!" they decided to place a \$236.78 bid online. Given the fact that all the other bids on Baby Matthew combined would not equal what Brit and K-Fed were willing to offer, Baby Matthew was forced to go.

Baby Matthew's older brother and MOR staff member Luke McCarthy gave Matthew two dollars, a Special K cereal bar, a backpack full of dirty clothes and a bright blue tarp and sent the Baby packing in the early hours of the morning, thinking that no one would ever find out. Luckily Marisa Kang was awake in the early hours of the morning making music, when she heard the high pitched squeals of the Baby Matthew. "I knew I had to do something, so I pulled out my beautiful blue 'LG Chocolate' phone and made the call to Chris Hall," said Kang.

"It was all a blur to me, and I really don't remember much of it at all," commented Baby Matthew in a recent interview. "I think they tried to sell me drugs, or maybe it was one of their children... I don't know. It was too early in the morning for me to be awake. Babies need their sleep you know!!"

Brother Luke McCarthy refused to comment on the incident.

So there you have it. The Baby is safe, the brother is lower and cheaper than any of us ever though, and Britney and K-Fed are now on their way to Nova Scotia to learn step-dancing. It's all a true story.

If you wish to adopt your own Baby Matthew and have YOUR story published, please join the Facebook group online or talk to older brother Luke McCarthy. Bids begin at \$20.00.

THE CUT OF THE CENTURY



By ANDY STARK

"Spending more for fewer students with no real educational gain cannot continue," said Joseph P. Ford along with the other Lee Board of Selectmen, written in a letter on the topic of the

proposed 3 million dollar budget cut of the school district. I'm sure a lot of the student community at Oyster River has at least heard some mention of this large issue.

The speculation of a large cut has been talked about for a while, but unless you have been paying close attention to the issue it's hard to even understand at all. Oyster River has made cuts to the budget before, but that's only trimmings compared to the proposed 3 million dollars. With one of the highest cost per students in the state, which in the past 6 years has increased almost 600% greater than the state average, more taxpayers are starting to think of how it could be cut in rational way.

"At the going rate we will drop 100 high school students in the next four years," predicted ORCSD's Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee. This is a larger reason for the consideration of a budget cut. There have been thoughts of bringing more kids into our district from Barrington and increasing their tuition.



The general consensus from the community shows very little interest in this idea. It's also been thought that the number of Oyster River students going to college after graduation has dropped. "High schools don't send children to college, families do," said Steve Frolking and Joanna Wicklein, residents of Durham who have been following the board meetings closely.

The budget cut would affect all of the schools in our district, including Mast Way, Moharimet, the middle school and the high school. It's unsure how much each school would be losing- but it would be a significant amount. The talk of what we may lose over here at the high school has been some of discontent.

If the budget were to lose this much it would result in the cutting of some classes. This is an issue of great concern throughout the student body of Oyster River and even the community in the district. The decision of how a class would be cut would depend on the size of students in it. In town meetings it has been discussed that classes with less than 10 students would be the ones to go first, with a possibility of other electives and non-mandated classes next.

This means that schools are going to fill up faster and students will be deferred. Plenty of smart kids have been deferred from schools that they would have almost certainly been accepted to if they had been applying a few years earlier. A student is going to have to stick out now more than ever just so that their college of choice will look at them. There are students who excel in the Arts and Music departments, and in the advanced classes (AP) the number of students is generally few. If the budget was cut, these are some of the classes that may be put under due to the few students.

"I firmly believe that a huge factor in my admission was my diverse schedule. I have taken five classes in the music department, and three in the art department," said Senior

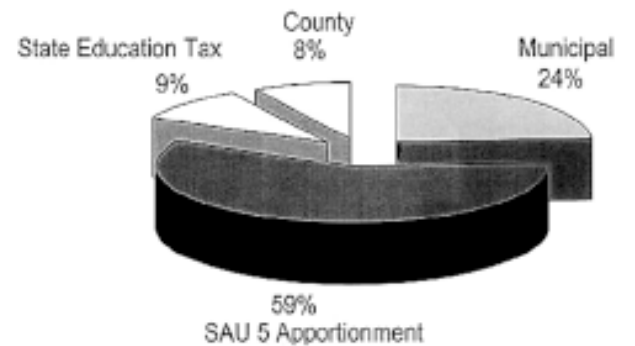
Max Harris who was recently accepted to Lehigh University. "It's tough to think that future students may not have the option to take a variety of classes that interests them."

Oyster River has always had a range of courses available to take and it's been growing. How are students going to be able to stand out to a college other than just their grades academically? Without a variety of courses for them to look at it could become difficult.

There is a chance that some staff cuts will also be made if the cut is passed. "Teachers work with unions and are paid with contracts similar to professional athletes. You cannot simply take away their pay, you either let them teach till their contract expires or terminate their contract," clarified Principal Laura Rogers. At the recent board meeting one 5th grade teaching position had been decided to be cut.

When it comes down to it, no one wants to see some of their favorite teachers or classes go. But, it's a big possibility. The truth is that the budget has grown from \$19 million to \$36 million in ten years. Now some of this is federally funded, but the jump of around \$1.7 million per year is quite a bit. However, the cost of living has increased since then as well. The cost of health insurance along with other associated

Property Tax Rate Breakdown for 2006



benefits have sky rocketed. Money from the taxpayers goes towards staff health insurance plans; usually the cost is split between the district, taxpayers and the employee themselves. Fuel has also shot up

at an extraordinary amount. One thing that tends not to be known is that the district owns the school buses, instead of hiring a company. The fuel used for transporting students is paid out of the budget. Even the cost for special education has gone up. There are many factors that go into the large amount of money that is being spent. Costs are rising and it's an inevitable problem. Although it's nearly preventable, people are trying to come up with realistic ways to lessen the blow.

As students we are subject to the best education we can get, but at what cost? Enrollments have declined 11% over the last ten years. Are the high taxes discouraging people from moving to our lovely Durham? It's difficult for new families with young children and also the retired part of the community to keep coughing up more and more money. Maybe the budget could be slimmed down but in a different manner. This isn't a small issue; it's one that would have a large effect if it were to actually happen. If you have interest in this issue, which one can only hope, talk to your parents about it. The voting meeting will be held on March 11th.

As of right now the student to teacher ratio is around 17-1, but the threat of a budget cut this large could jump it to 24-1



CD APPRECIATION

By RYAN DALY



Dio - Holy Diver

Dio's debut album is a salute to the genre known as metal. Whether it be the mind-blowing shredding or powerful vocals produced by Dio front man, Ronnie James Dio, Holy Diver is a masterpiece that can be enjoyed by all walks of life.

Dio was first assembled in 1982 by Portsmouth's own Ronnie James Dio, a man who by that time had sang in three commercially successful metal bands, one of which was Black Sabbath after former lead singer Ozzy Osbourne had been kicked out. Proclaimed "godfather of metal" by many, few believed that Ronnie James Dio could do wrong, and they were correct in that notion.

Holy Diver features a powerful instrumental section with riffs that make you want to stop what you're doing and start a riot. The fact that Ronnie James Dio is giving one of his careers best vocal performances does not hurt the CD either. Hailed by critics as having the most powerful singing voice in the metal genre, Ronnie James Dio's wailing screams remain strong and on point, without becoming obnoxiously high as many 80's singers tend to do.

My favorite tracks include Stand Up and Shout, Holy Diver, Don't Talk to Strangers, and Rainbow in the Dark. Just because I've singled these out doesn't mean there the only ones worth listening. On the contrary, Holy Diver is one of those albums that come around every so often that are possible to listen from start to finish without feeling the need to skip another "filler" song.

By the end of this review, I hope you are satisfied and convinced that Holy Diver is must have for your record collection (or at least on your ipod.) So please, for your own good, stop what you're doing now and go pick up a copy, you owe it to yourself.

UPCOMING EVENTS



By ARIEL WACHOWIAK

Wednesday, March 5th, 2008 - District Wide School Board Meeting

Friday, March 6th, 2008 - Mouth of the River Concert

When: 6:00-9:00pm

Where: ORHS Auditorium

Ticket Costs: \$4

Bands: MOJO, The Beyond

Feel like listening to some good music for an inexpensive cost? Come to the MOR concert and check these bands out! MOR is making an attempt to raise money for the newspaper, and we need your help.

March 11th, 2008 - School Voting

This takes place during the following pole hours at these town locations:

Durham: Oyster River High School, 7:00am to 7:00pm

Lee: Lee Safety Complex, 8:00am to 7:00pm

Madbury: Madbury Town Hall, 11:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesday April 2nd, 2008 - District Wide School Board Meeting

April 4th, 2008 - The "Press Project" Concert

Where: ORHS

When: 8:30pm

Ticket Costs: \$10 Presale

\$13 at the door

The Press Project opened for the roots at the Whittemore Center at UNH in 2006. They are a very talented group. The concert is a junior class fundraiser, and they would love your support!

For more information, contact Emily Hobson or Karissa Layden.



ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



By REEGAN CARBONE

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Loren busy creating a masterpiece!

What is your best style of artwork?
Right now my favorite medium to work in is oil paint.

Do you have a favorite piece? What is it like?
I've really enjoyed painting landscapes in oils. The piece I'm working on now is a landscape with a road right in the center that meanders into the background. It has lots of rolling hills and bright colors-it's a lot of fun.

For how long have you been an artist?
I have been an artist since I was little. I've always loved to draw but I think I've really improved in high school art classes.

Have you sold any of your pieces? Are they displayed anywhere?
No. I usually give them away as presents. A lot of my pieces are sitting at home in my portfolio. I want to put a couple up in my room.

Would you like to pursue it in college?
I would love for art to play a major part in my life at college. I'm thinking about it being a possible minor, but if not, it will still be my number one hobby.

AARON MOSS

What is your best style of artwork?
Three dimensional objects made out of clay or metal.

Do you have a favorite piece? What is it like?
Yes, it's this crazy guy thing made out of clay, and it has a face and ribs and stuff, and it's blue and green

For how long have you been an artist?
I don't know...



Aaron hard at work on the wheel.

Have you sold any of your pieces? Are they displayed anywhere?
Nope to sold. Nope to displayed.

Would you like to pursue it in college?
If I go to college, then yeah, probably

Any additional comments?
Nope to that one too.



Aaron displaying some of his best pieces.

MUSICIANS OF THE MONTH



By MAX HARRIS

What instruments do you play and how long have you been playing them?
Clarinet for 8 years, Alto Sax for 4 years, Baritone Sax for 5 years, Piano for 7 and the rest of them I kinda suck at so I won't say them.

Which is your favorite?
Probably Saxophone is the most fun, but I sound better on Clarinet.

Main Influences?
Jamie Cullum. He's amazing, really inspiring. I went to see him two years ago and crazy, jumping on the piano and stuff. It was really cool.

Groups/bands?
The Oyster River Jazz Band, Concert Band, Jazz Choir and All-State Band and too, but I don't know if they count

Best musical moment?
Getting into Jazz All-State for voice this year. I wasn't expecting to do as well as I and it gave me a lot of confidence. It was a lot of fun.

Why do you play?
It just makes me really happy. You can get emotion from it, like if you're playing in really good band, you get the vibe from the music.

Do you plan to pursue music later in life?
Yes, I'm planning on majoring in Music Education next year at UNH, and hopefully being in some performing groups as well.



Katrina showing off her musical talent.

THAYER HARRIS



T-Diddy, reppin' hard

Our Musician of the month for this issue is a man who needs little introduction. From attending a bass camp at Berklee School of Music, to the Russian ink 'Musika' on the inside of his forearm, Thayer Harris is Oyster River's bassist extraordinaire. A musician through and through.

What instruments do you play and how long have you been playing them?
Bass, 2 years. Mandolin and Ukelele, 2 years, Guitar, 5 years

Which is your favorite?
Bass guitar, the b-fiddle

What are your main influences?
John Paul-Jones [Led Zeppelin], Flea [Red Hot Chili Peppers], and Les Claypool [Primus, Flying Frog Brigade, Fancy Band, Oysterhead, etc.] . That about sums it up.

What groups/bands do you play in?
Mojo and the Oyster River Jazz Band

Best musical moment?
Probably the Berklee stuff that I've done, playing at Berklee , and playing at the Mill Pond was wicked fun. I sweated balls through that show. I've never sweat so much in my life.

Why do you play?
Why do scientologists believe that L. Ron Hubbard knows anything at all...?

Do you plan to pursue music later in life?
Yeah, Oh yeah. I plan pretty much my life around working in the music industry in some way. Teaching lessons, working at music shops, chillin at music venues, what not, etc. etc. . . .hell yeah.



“MUSIC” in Russian

A HISTORY OF OSCAR



By CHELSEA KOLTER

He stands today, as he has since 1929, a figure of a knight standing on a reel of film, hands gripping a sword, 13 ½ inches of achievement on the mantels of some of the greatest film entertainers in history. Officially named the Academy Award of Merit, the statuette is better known by his nickname, Oscar, the origins of which aren't clear. A popular story has been that Margaret Herrick, an Academy librarian and eventual executive director, thought it resembled her Uncle Oscar. After she said so, the Academy staff began calling it Oscar.

Oscar was born by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences committee in order to praise great achievement in film entertainment year by year. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was founded in 1927, a committee of seven members was given the task of creating an Academy Awards presentation. It was decided that all films released from August 1, 1927 through July 31, 1928 would be eligible for the first Academy Awards. The first Academy Awards ceremony was held on May 16, 1929. It was a quiet affair compared to the glamour and glitz that accompany the ceremonies of today. Two hundred and fifty people attended the black-tie banquet that evening in the Blossom Room of Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Though this was the first time these awards were to be given, the attendees were not anxious. Unlike the secrecy that surrounds the winners of today's ceremonies, the winners of the first Academy Award ceremony were announced three months early.

The Academy Awards of 2008 were on February 24.



CAMDEN BROWN:MOST LIKELY TO WIN AN OSCAR



Look for this up and coming star in future films!

If you were to win an Oscar, what would your speech be?
I would probably mention how I remember watching the Oscars when I was younger, and how my parents one year laid out a red carpet going from our kitchen to our TV room, and they got all dressed up as practice for when I took them to the awards. I would thank my parents, my brother, the cast and crew of the movie I was in, any teacher I've ever had, and myself for never giving up on me.

What are your thoughts on awards shows like Oscars? Are they as exciting as they are hyped up to be?
The Oscars is the only award show I like to watch. What my family does is we print out ballots with all the nominees on them, and we vote for who we think the winners will be, and at the end of the Oscars we tally up to see who was the right. For the last 5 years or so that I've been watching the Oscars, I've enjoyed them. Billy Crystal has been my favorite host to date (that was the year The Lord of the Rings won 12 Oscars, I was soooo wild that night!)

What does it mean to an actor to win or even be nominated for an Oscar?
I think a nomination speaks just as loudly as winning. A nomination is a nice tip of the hat to show you that your work is really good. Plus it makes you work hard if you want to win. I don't think many actors perform well just so they can get an Oscar, it's just a nice thing to be rewarded with. Peter O'Toole is an amazing actor, he's been nominated for best actor about 7 times I think, and he's never won. They would inspire me to keep on working. One of my life goals is to win an Oscar, if I achieve it, I don't know what I'll have left to live for.

Do you believe that the Oscars are an actual indication of acting talent, or more of what was the most popular movie that year?
Popularity amongst the academy members maybe, but not amongst the nation. Blockbusters rarely win Oscars (Lord of the Rings is an exception). Movies can become blockbusters after they win though. Talent is hard to judge, I think if you're nominated, that's the best indicator, from then on it's just the opinion of some 4,000 members of the Academy.

What are your predictions for this year for the categories of best picture, best actor, and best actress?
I'm betting on Daniel Day Lewis for Best Actor, Juno for Best Picture, and Ellen Page for Best Actress.



By MAX HARRIS

"He's the redheaded stepchild," says his older brother Jeremy. He stands at over 6 feet tall, uncommon for a frosh. His flaming red hair and hilarious attitude make him an obvious selection for Oyster River's first random person of the month. His older brother Poobz (Jeremy Goodwin) is well known among the seniors, and by extension, the school. Although known for his extraordinary height ("He's Tall" ~Mr. Morin) the younger still has yet to prove his fame. I believe his day will come. "He has time to grow into a true Goodwin," says Senior Thayer Harris.

In an effort to learn more about this man, I searched Oyster River high and low to find the truth. . . .

On The Spot: What Do You Know About Adam Goodwin?

- "I know that he is Jeremy's younger brother, and a twin, but not much more than that" ~Mr. Evans
- "He's a freshman, plays basketball and soccer, plays goalie. . . he's a pretty good goalie." ~Johnny O'Brien
- "Not much, he's tall, plays basketball. . . that's all I got." ~Andy Caswell
- "He's taller than Jeremy!" ~Jared Shaheen
- "He's tall, goofy, has red hair. . .and he's dead sexy" ~Alina Harris
- "From what I hear being over at Poobz' house, he's pretty good at video games. He's a gamer" ~Greg Johnson
- "His French name is Faycal, and he loves French. . . every time he IM's me he's like 'Bonjour!'" ~Andrea Belaidi
- "Who's Adam Goodwin?" ~Max Disesa

Anyway, here's the man, in his own words...

So you have been selected as MOR's random person of the month. Any thoughts about that?
Its cool, I guess (shrugs)

How do you spend most of your time?
With my friends, hanging out.

Be more specific. . .
. . . at Jake [Baver]'s

What's your favorite video game/opponents?
Super Smash with Jake [Baver], Joe [Bennett], Alex [Hennessy] and Brad [Burke].

What's it like being the younger brother of the mighty Poobz?
I don't know. . . its kinda cool 'cause everyone knows him and. . . someone to look up to I guess.

Who is the coolest frosh?
. . . . (long pause). . . (finally after much thought) Joe [Bennett].

Coolest Senior?
'Poobz' (true to his family, good man)

In an epic battle to the death between Poobz and The Hulk (while he's angry), who would win?
It depends if Jeremy was angry too.





By REEGAN CARBONE

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

February Break Traveler: Hannah Poff
Destination: Puerto Rico

Why are you going there?
>My cousin is getting married, and his fiancé is Puerto Rican, so the wedding is there to be with her family.

Where are you staying?

>The wedding is in Old San Juan, but we're staying at the Copa Marina resort in the southwest end of Puerto Rico

How long are you there for?

>We leave February 22nd and come back March 1st, so a little over a week.

Do you have other plans while you're there?

>My dad made reservations to take us scuba diving, and we're doing all of those canopy walks and ziplines in the rainforest. My mom and sister are also taking a sunset horseback ride. We'll also do a lot of sightseeing and plenty of shopping!



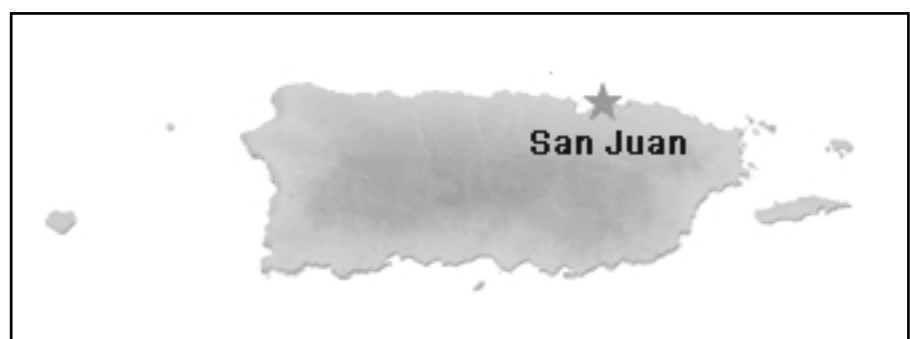
Hannah Poff excited about her trip



A LITTLE ABOUT PUERTO RICO...

Somewhere between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of the Dominican Republic, is an island called Puerto Rico. Just 1,000 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, is the sacred and desirable vacationland that is approximately three times the size of the state of Rhode Island. Like some of the other islands in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico is under the U.S. customs jurisdiction, allowing free movement of merchandise and people between the U.S. and Puerto Rican borders. The dominant language spoken in

Puerto Rico is Spanish, although English is required in all federal matters and is spoken in all major tourist areas. The capital, San Juan, also known as



"La Ciudad Amurallada", the walled city, is a great destination for vacationers. Founded in 1521, San Juan is the second oldest western city in the Americas. Every year, there is a large amount of people who leave the mainland of the U.S. and take the three hour flight from Miami to Puerto Rico. With its great weather, beaches, and attractions, Puerto Rico brings in endless money from tourists each year.

February Break Traveler: Mr. Lawrence
Destination: Somewhere...

Why are you going there?
>Well, I'm not going anywhere yet, but possibly somewhere warm. I'm sick of winter; I need Vitamin D, and I can't get it... I have a deficiency!

Where are you staying?

>So far I'm not staying, because I don't know where I'm going, but I do know that if I go, it'll be somewhere south, but not as far as the equator.

How long are you there for?

>Four days; my kids can't handle me being gone for more than that...losers...just kidding, I adore them.

Do you have other plans while you're there?

>Nah, I don't want to pressure myself into anything that I can't follow through with.



Mr. Lawrence still confused about his plan

More travelers on the next page...

Continued from the previous page...

February Break Traveler: Ben Woodburn
Destination: Tortola

Why are you going there?
>Family vacation, going with my aunt, uncle, cousins and the rest of the family.

Where are you staying?
>Somewhere along Apple Bay... it's a condo with a really steep driveway, but I forget what it's called.

How long are you there for?
>Two weeks, pretty much for all of February break. I'm leaving on Saturday, the first day of vacation, and we come back the Sunday before vacation ends.

Do you have other plans while you're there?
>Scuba diving a shipwreck with my uncle, and I'm going to surf a lot too. Planning on just sitting on the beach getting a mad sunburn.



Ben Woodburn... just Wobblin'



A LITTLE ABOUT TORTOLA...

The largest and most populated of the British Virgin Islands, Tortola attracts tourists with its beaches; some of the best in the Caribbean. The Island separates the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, just 60 miles east of Puerto Rico. The name of the island comes from the Spanish word tortola, or "turtle dove". Although very popular, the crowds mostly stay on the U.S Virgin Islands and overbearing resorts rather than the laid back 24-square-mile island of Tortola. Not only are the beaches pretty, but the weather is outstanding. There are plenty of attractions, whether it is the famous beaches, the thirteen marinas, or Mount Sage, standing over 1,700 feet tall. The capital of the British Virgin Islands, Road Town, is located on Tortola's southern shore. Road Town is an important economic capital of the Caribbean, due to the large amount of international business going through it. The island itself is just three miles wide, even though there is a large export of livestock from Tortola to the U.S, and houses four-fifths of the total population of the British Islands.



February Break Traveler: Mrs. Best
Destination: Pittsburg, NH (near Canada)

Why are you going there?
>I'm going snowmobiling with my husband for a week

Where are you staying?
>In a place called Lopstick Lodges; they have individual cabins, and ours has a jacuzzi, which will be great after a long day of snowmobiling.

How long are you there for?
>Sunday through Friday, and there are over 200 miles of trails to travel.

Do you have other plans while you're there?
>We're going to Rangeley, Maine, which is 150 miles one way, so 300 miles total in one day. We're also going to do some snowshoeing hopefully.

Mrs. Best pumped about her upcoming snowmobiling experience

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN

Kellee Jackson:

"Someone who takes a really clear step towards the environment."

Agnes Fotino:

"Someone determined."



Emily Allen:

"I look for candidates who have leadership skills and someone who wants to take action for what the people want."



Greg Godfrey:

"Knows how to handle war."



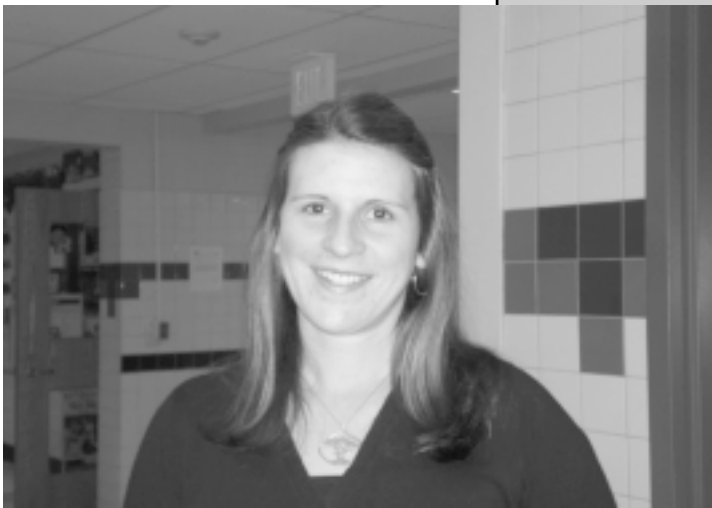
Josh Perkins:

"Experience"



Mrs. Seamen:

"Affordable health care, funding federal mandates properly, and really looking at a policy for sustainable and renewable energy."



Mr. Maynard:

"Someone who has a clue. Someone who wants to be president to help the people, not because it's just a job and to boost their ego."

A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE?

Curtis DeLoy:

"Depends on their morals and whether they support the little people, not the big people."



Mrs. Rogers:

"Honesty and integrity because I'm so tired of people treating us like we're too dumb. The reality is that people are lying to us, and crimes have been committed without us knowing about it."



Emma Smith:

"I look for candidates who tell the truth, and not flip floppers."

Mr. Baker:

"The focus on encompassing issues, like health care, as opposed to the focus on isolated issues, such as scandals and sports."

Cam Brown:

"I'd like to see Hilary Clinton because then there'd be lots of pictures of her in bikinis to come out and, I mean, Bill looks pretty good in one. The same family would be in office for like 20 years, which almost makes us a monarchy."





By ARIEL WACHOWIAK

ALTERNATIVE HEALING METHODS

Although all doctors want to heal their patients, there are many different methods of going about this. Some doctors believe in modern techniques, which includes running many tests and prescribing medication to patients in need. These are doctors that everyone's heard of; pediatricians, chiropractors, surgeons, emergency room doctors, nurses, et cetera. However, there are many unique forms of medication, and many other medicinal techniques, that are unheard of.

There are over a hundred different kinds of alternative therapies that often go unheard of. These techniques are very controversial, and many don't have evidence to support their effectiveness. However, many people swear by these techniques, and there have been stories that prove its power.

Mark Crosser, a doctor who specializes in multiple alternative methods, is no stranger to people being suspicious about the effectiveness of his practices. "People either believe in it or they don't," says Crosser. "However, people thought that the Wright brothers were crazy for attempting to make an airplane, and nobody thought that was

possible. This is this same kind of thing," he says. Some people judge the techniques before they've tried them just because there are many unanswered questions.

"Sometimes things we are not familiar with, or the unknown, can be a little scary," comments Kathy Ford, a Reiki healer. "I personally don't know exactly how electricity works, but I am neither skeptical nor afraid of it, I just know it works."

Ford has been a Reiki healer for six years, and has seen its effectiveness and times where it didn't work. She originally got involved in Reiki after she was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which she struggled with for over a decade. "I went to countless doctors and had endless tests taken to no avail," she remembers. "Then, I tried Reiki and was so impressed and amazed by its results that I

decided to get certified in it." Although Reiki worked for her, she says that there are times when Reiki is valid, and times when it isn't. All alternative medication varies between each patient. "The effectiveness all depends on the person and the circumstance," she comments. "It is very individual, just like certain western modern medicine techniques are valid for some and invalid for others, be it prescription drugs, surgery, et cetera."

On the other hand, Radiologist Burns Foley doesn't believe in the usefulness of alternative medication. "The difference between alternative medication and conventional medication is that conventional medication is proven and has evidence that it works," he states. "Alternative medication doesn't, and just relies on one's belief. Personally, I don't believe in it, so I wouldn't try it, nor would I recommend it to anyone else." He, like many others, isn't open to trying new techniques.

Although many modern doctors don't believe in alternative medicinal techniques, there are many reasons that people try them. "People might seek out of their way of life, they don't want to harm their bodies with conventional drugs, or because they're not getting any results from what they've already tried," says Crosser. "The advantage of alternative medicine in comparison to traditional medicine is that there are no known risks of side effects," comments Ford.

However, "the bottom line is that it is just another opportunity for people to get better," states Crosser. "People can see some really amazing results if they have an open mind."

EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUE (EFT)

The emotional freedom technique, or EFT, is a psychotherapeutic tool. The basic technique involves thinking of a disturbing memory or bad emotion while using your fingers to tap on a series of 12 specific points on one's body that correspond to the meridians. EFT is based on the theory that negative emotions are caused by conflicts in the body's energy field. By tapping on the meridians while thinking of a negative emotion, the body's energy will be altered and rebalanced.

The theory states that negative emotions are built in the following stages: A negative experience occurs, negative emotions are felt in a response to the negative experience, the negative emotions force inappropriate programming inside of the body, and the body's energy system gets disrupted due to the negative emotions.

Practitioners of EFT claim that this technique relieves many psychological and physical conditions, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, addictions, and phobias.

HYPNOTHERAPY

HypnotherapY is a form of "orthodox", as opposed to complementary or alternative medication because there is evidence that this actually works. A person under hypnotherapy usually acts in an unusual manner because they are in a trance.

The most common reason for the application of hypnotherapy is to change a person's behavior, emotional content, and attitude. However, hypnotherapy helps treat many other things, such as phobias, obesity, insomnia, pain management, addictions, relieving pain in childbirth without changing the normal course of labor or causing harm to the baby, and helps treat cancer-related symptoms like anxiety, pain, nausea, and vomiting.

REIKI:

Reiki is a Japanese form of healing that involves practitioners laying their hands on, or over, their subject in an attempt to "heal one's energy". The belief is that energy from the universe flows through the practitioner's palms wherever the hands are placed to bring about healing. The subject often feels warmth or tingling in the area that is being treated, even when a non-touching approach is being used. The patient immediately feels a deep state of relaxation and well-being. Patients may end up crying as emotions are released.

There are 7 "Chakras", or spiritual centers, of the body.

1. Crown Chakra
-Location: Top of the head
-Symbolizes: understanding, cosmic consciousness, enlightenment
2. Third Eye Chakra
-Location: Middle of the forehead
-Symbolizes: clairvoyance, intuition, psychic senses
3. Throat Chakra
-Location: On the throat
-Symbolizes: communication, creativity, healing
4. Heart Chakra
-Location: Center of the chest
-Symbolizes: love, hope, compassion
5. Solar Plexus Chakra
-Location: Solar plexus (just below the rib cage)
-Symbolizes: energy, vitality, desire, power
6. Sacral Chakra
-Location: Below the belly button
-Symbolizes: emotions, sexuality, intimacy
7. Root Chakra
-Location: Base of spine
-Symbolizes: survival instinct, security, grounding



Koren Specific Techinque, after finding the problem, Dr. Crosser is getting rid of it by using a drill.



Koren Specific Technique, Dr. Crosser is using the biofeed-back test to see where the problem is located.

THREE MONTHS OF SILENCE

By ARIEL WACHOWIAK

As I sit straight forward in an uncomfortable chair with a horrid taste in my mouth, I noticed how my tongue feels as though it is growing. The inside of my mouth is tingly, and swallowing is difficult.

"Ready?"

I nod in silence, knowing that I don't have a choice.

A lady grabs my tongue, holds it out, and begins to shove a thick, rigid scope (called a laryngoscope) down my throat. The further it goes down, the more I begin to panic. Tears well up in my eyes. Although I try to keep myself focused on something other than the rod that is wedged down my throat in an attempt to look at my larynx, I can't. The only thing that I can do is sit there gagging and feeling completely miserable for myself.

3 months ago on November 13th, 2007, I woke up to find that my voice was gone, and the only sound that I projected was a hoarse whisper. Normally, I wouldn't be concerned, but I was no stranger to losing my voice. Last April, I lost my voice for ten days until it finally came back on a trip to Florida. I figured I would just go to the doctor's, get some antibiotics, and be cured in no time.

However, this was not the case. After 10 days of being on antibiotics, my voice hadn't made any progress. Each day, I became more and more frustrated. My lack of voice affected every part of my life; from playing ice hockey, to participating in class, to hanging out with my friends and having a normal social life. I felt aggravated and angry because I couldn't say what was on my mind. I wasn't getting better on my own, nor was I doing anything that could possibly make me better.

After about three weeks of being without a voice, I went to see an ear, nose, and throat specialist. He was the first person to look at my larynx (voice box) by using a laryngoscope. After looking at my larynx, he didn't find anything wrong with it, but prescribed me steroids, another kind of antibiotics, and anti-reflex medication. He told me to take the prescribed medication and my voice would come back.

Unfortunately, modern medication is occasionally more praised than it is effective. The three different kinds of medication didn't work, and only made my life worse. I became sick as a result of taking the medication, I didn't have much of an appetite, and my face was breaking out. Nothing was working, and I was beginning to feel hopeless.

I went back to the ear, nose, and throat specialist. He took a second look at my larynx, and still didn't find anything wrong with it. He told me to just wait another month. If it didn't come back in a month, he wanted me to go to Massachusetts General Hospital.

By this point, I was distressed and sick of waiting. Out of pure desperation, I looked into alternative healing methods. I went to see a chiropractor in Rochester, named Doctor Crosser, who also specialized in the Koren Specific Technique (KST), the Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), and acupuncture. I also went to see a Reiki healer, named Kathy Ford, in Rochester. To be completely honest, I was very skeptical of their techniques and what they had to offer when I first made the appointments. However, at this point, I was ready to try anything.

Did Doctor Crosser and Kathy Ford work miracles and make my voice come back? Unfortunately not, and my voice is still gone today. However, they did show me so much compassion and care. They made me feel like they were willing to do whatever it took to cure me, and I knew that they were really pulling for me to get better. Although they didn't cure me, they gave me peace of mind, which is exactly what I needed at that point. They made me feel relaxed and less angry. I stopped feeling bad for myself, regained hope, and stopped being miserable.

Many people made fun of me for seeking out alternative healing methods, and told me that it was a wasted effort and would never help me. However, they also noticed the shift in my attitude. I was undeniably happier.

Now, I find alternative healing methods to be incredible, and strongly suggest them to anyone. Although some methods may seem a little bit far fetched, I was really amazed to find how accurate my healers were. For example, Doctor Crosser knew when I was fighting with a friend without asking me because he could sense the negative energy inside of my body. Kathy Ford sensed there was a black cat in my energy path. Together, Kathy and I figured out that it was a black cat named Shadow who I had met in Florida in the April of 2007. On that trip, my voice came back after it had been gone for 10 days. Kathy believed that Shadow was trying to get my voice back now. Although this may seem outrageous, I believe that this may be true.

On February 12, 2008, I went to Boston to get my voice looked at. Once again, they found that nothing was structurally wrong with it, and they told me that it looked like it was functioning fine. They explained to me that my voice was lost either because of piled-up stress, a traumatic event, or because of a cold. Since my voice has been gone for so long, my brain forgot how to send signals to make me talk normally. My next step is to get voice therapy so that my brain can relearn how to send those signals to make my voice work.

All of the doctors that I've seen are very different, yet they all said one thing in common; stress played a huge toll on my body, and is the reason for why I lost my voice. Personally, I have the tendency of keeping negative feelings to myself. I don't face my problems head on; instead, I shy away from confrontation, and I don't always say how I feel if I think it will create drama and problems. By doing this, negative energy and emotions get trapped inside of me. Eventually, it all just piled up and my strategy backfired in my face. By metaphorically "losing my voice", it translated into a physical problem because my mind and body complex were working together and trying to tell me that I can't keep hiding my problems inside of me. Although it's going to take me a while to learn to cope with my problems in other ways and actually speak up when I have an issue, I'm going to work on it. As for my opinion about alternative medicine and techniques... it is what you make of it. If you don't believe in it, then it won't work for you. However, if you have an open mind and want to try something new, then I would definitely advise you to go for it. Although it hasn't physically helped me, it has helped my mental health tremendously.

URINE THERAPY

Urine therapy refers to various applications of human urine and medicinal or cosmetic purposes. This includes drinking one's own urine and massaging one's skin with one's own urine. Practitioners of this therapy, known as "uropaths", believe that urine has many preventative and curative powers. Although this sounds outrageous and disgusting, other cultures, especially India, have traditionally used urine as a medicine. Doctors actually prescribe urine to patients. British actress Sarah Miles has drunk her own urine for over 30 years, and insists that it immunizes against allergies and has other health benefits.

Although many people think that urinating on jellyfish stings is helpful and a common remedy, it has no positive result and may be counterproductive because it can stimulate nematocysts that stay at the site of the sting.



HOMEOPATHY

Homeopathy is a form of alternative medicine. The application of homeopathic remedies vary between every patient, and depend on the physical and psychological state of the patient, which is found by the patient consultation.

Although homeopathic remedies are generally not tested and aren't regulated under the same laws as conventional drugs, they are usually considered to be safe. However, homeopaths are sometimes criticized for putting patients at risk because they tell people to take homeopathic remedies, rather than conventional medical treatments.

KOREN SPECIFIC TECHNIQUE (KST)

The Koren Specific Technique, or KST, is a gentle and specific way of correcting the spine and structural system. It corrects a form of nerve stress, known as subluxation, which is caused by alterations in the spine and body structure. The purpose of KST is to remove subluxations from the mind and body complex so that the patient can be physically and mentally happier. Usually, an adjusting instrument is used to help get rid of the subluxations. This tool looks like a drill and vibrates gently.

Generally, people feel at ease, relaxed, and well after a treatment. Patients who have suffered for years have found miraculous improvements from chronic problems after they tried KST.



By RYAN DALY

YouTube VIDEO OF THE MONTH



Klaus Wercek's first day on the job.

Yes, we created the MOR youtube video of the month. We all have our favorites, whether it be about a cheerleader being trampled by a football team, a nerdy teen pretending he's a Jedi, or just about muffins, we all have a favorite youtube video that we have

watched and shown over and over again to our friends.

My personal favorite video comes from Germany, and it's about forklift operating. I know what you're thinking: "Germany? The only funny thing to come out of Germany is their obsession with David Hasselhoff!" Do not fret my fellow students, this video does not disappoint. What starts out as a first day on the job for Klaus Wercek becomes a bloodbath full of laughter and good times.

For access to the video, type in German Forklift Operator in your youtube browser, and make sure you select the "in subtitles". option.



By RYAN DALY

HBO has long since been a favorite for avid television viewers looking for uncensored quality shows, including the Sopranos, Sex in the City, and The Wire. All these shows however, have either finished or are currently on their final season. With this in mind, many have questioned whether HBO's golden years are over with. HBO's an-

answer to their problem comes in the form of an American fore father: John Adams.

John Adams has largely been overlooked in history. He is often perceived as less iconic than the larger than life figures of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and his presidency has been marked with the Alien and Sedition acts. The human face of John Adams has rarely been written in the text books we read in class, for this is what makes John Adams such a significant person. Many experts agree that out of all the Presidents America has had over the decades, John Adams was the most honest with the American people, more honest even than "honest" Abe Lincoln.

"I think it's great that HBO is getting new series, with so many great shows ending, they need another hit," stated Brooke Pagnotta, an HBO enthusiast, "I hope the John Adams mini series is as good as it sounds."

The HBO mini-series is starring actor veteran actor and academy award nominee Paul Giamatti as John Adams. The seven part mini-series portrays the American Revolution and the first 50 years of the United States of America through the eyes of John Adams. The series is scheduled to air on HBO from March 16 to April 27.



By REEGAN CARBONE

OVERHEARDS

"Did you notice that Jordan Spark's nails matched her dress last night in the Superbowl?" - Mr. Maynard

"But I wanted to be a fetus!" - Jessica Miller

"Mr. Whalen, you're naughty!"- Mrs. Rogers
"I know, it's the beard."- Mr. Whalen

"I hope she finds her way under a bus"- Alec
Schidlovsky

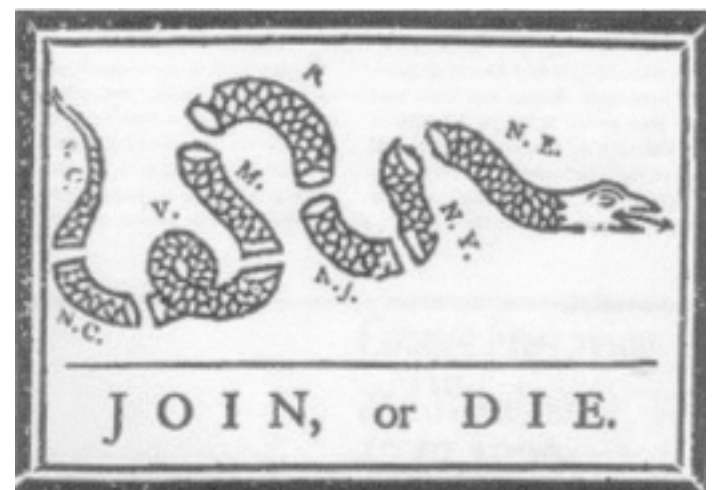
"...And I've gotta put my shoes on... and I've gotta take attendance; oh boy I'm screwed up" - Mrs. Parsons

"When you're hot, you're hot"- Mr. Nichols
 "Yeah, Mr. Nichols, you're hot"- Greg Johnson

"Well guys, you can pickle anything"- David Isenburg

"There's nothing like holding pig urine with the breeze coming through"- Trevor Maynard

JOIN OR DIE



Join, or Die: The adopted slogan of the new HBO mini-series



By **ROB FLETCHER**

FACEBOOK/MYSPACE: UNDENIABLY OBNOXIOUS

Ok, so it's time to address some trash that someone accidentally mistook for a social networking website, and which happened to turn into the next "biggest thing." Yes, I'm talking about Myspace/Facebook, which I hear to be individually very distinct from one another, but seem to me to be parallel in their [lack of] operative functions.

What we have here is a phenomenon that simply isn't phenomenal, but rather horrendous. It seems that I may be missing something, but I personally don't see what's so exciting about having your own webpage; So it's got your picture, some pictures of your friends, maybe even your favorite foods, but what are you really telling people? What's the actual function of you having your own webpage where you post pictures of yourself with your shirt off, or hiding your face artistically, just to make sure that your viewers don't think your body consists of

anything more than what you see from the shoulders down.

I completely understand the fact that Myspace and Facebook are social websites, and a lot of people go there simply to communicate with their friends. A lot of musical artists have Myspace/Facebook pages as well, which they use to release information about their band, and to project their work out to a larger base of potential fans and consumers. This, I can understand, because a musical artist actually has something which is arguably valuable to the average person. What really gets to me is how millions and millions of people today have these own damn webpages, with nothing more to offer to the average viewer than a picture of them and their friends, or a suggestive photo of a covered female breast; Yeah I dunno if anybody told ya babe, but girls are born with those.

That takes me to my next point; these websites are festering networks for sucklesome susslers to spy on random people. I'll refrain from using the term "internet predator," because predators are scary and dangerous, whereas dudes who spend entire days and nights on their computer looking for little girls are usually fat, lacking in speed, and generally worthless, due to the fact that their life has been reduced to searching personal webpages like these for pictures of young women.

So yeah I'm not down with the term "predator", and I couldn't care less if some creep's surfing around the web, trying to prey on little girls. If young women (or men for that matter, let's not be sexist) are stupid enough to meet up for a date with someone they met online, and they get raped/kidnapped/murdered, well in my opinion they probably wouldn't have lasted too long without it happening some other way, so that's their problem. Still, I can't see why all these people have these personal webpages, despite the fact that there are obviously tons of creepers out there, getting their eyeballs all over your slutty pictures. I'd personally feel dirty if I had my own webpage, spewing irrelevant information about my "inner feelings", and "best friends forever", but that's just me.

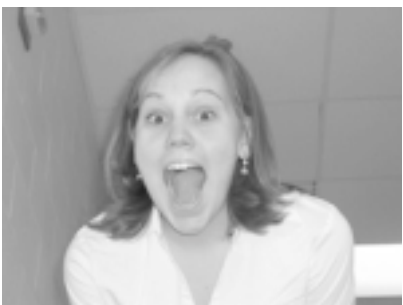
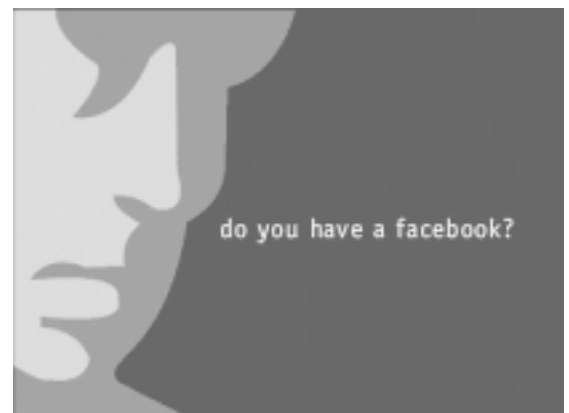
Still, the fact remains that these websites are huge among the youth generation, and are growing in popularity. When asked to comment on her position on Myspace/Facebook, senior Melissa Roeder commented: "I have a facebook and I use it daily! I think Facebook and Myspace are very similar and they're really cool to have. it's a good way to keep in touch with old friends especially now that we're all graduating." Oyster River Senior Sarah Crothers expressed a similar feeling, although not as overall positive: "I think it's strange to try and meet people on these websites and date, but I think it's a good way to catch up with old friends."

In my attempts to observe other opinions on Myspace/Facebook, I found many people's attitudes to be much more critical of Myspace than of Facebook: "Unfortunately I had a Myspace and quickly deleted it because it's sketchy and I think that there should be a lot more security because of the huge problem of online predators." Said OR senior Chelsea Kolter, when asked whether or not she had anything to say on the obsession. She continued to say: "Basically I hate it and I really think it's an excuse for people to put up 'hot' pictures of themselves whereas their classmates don't see them in that kind of light." When asked about Facebook, her opinions were significantly

different: "I do have Facebook and I actually like it a lot more. I think it's great that you have to confirm your friends so you're not getting sketchy looking at your profile and I think it's a safer tool for people to communicate with one another but I also think that (along with Myspace) people are far too wrapped up in it."

Senior Roxy Robertson shared Chelsea's views, only stronger: "I hate Myspace, cause it's trashy," she remarked immediately, when asked where she stood on Myspace. However, when asked about Facebook, Roxy responded: "Yeah I like Facebook, it's not trashy. I don't have any dirty pictures on Facebook. Plus, how else would you look at Mia?" Despite Roxy's defense of Facebook, many people feel it's in the same boat as Myspace, and I have to admit, I completely agree. In all fairness however, I've never used either of them, so I guess my opinion might not be that legitimate... OR Senior Dragos Maftai had this to say: "Facebook seemed like it used to be pretty cool, like a place for college students to feel part of the same community, but recently it's becoming more like Myspace. Plus, if you're a creeper, Facebook is a great place to just sketch on high school girls and check out pics."

In searching, it seemed as if most people expressed varying critical attitudes towards the two websites. However, these websites remain some of the biggest growing phenomena in the culture of our youth today. Society finds alarm in the fact that our generation is living our lives online, missing out on the development of important social skills, and making ourselves available to online predators. I guess I agree with that for the most part, but personally, I just find it obnoxious that all these people are making their own webpages, and are under the strange misconception that the next person actually genuinely cares about what they have to say. I can't expect anything to change, but that's ok, I've gotten used to accepting things which annoy me. I only hope that some people agree with me, and may read this article and think: "Ya know what? Those websites really are undeniably obnoxious."



By **HALLIE GREMLITZ**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

High school relationships in general are a bizarre phenomenon. With Valentine's Day a couple weeks past, I cannot help but think a great deal about those weird things we call "boyfriends" and "girlfriends". Let's take a walk down the halls of Oyster River. Although we don't see it as much as we used to, you all know those couples who are making out while pressed up against the door or locker that you are trying to get to. That wicked, undeniably, awkward moment where you don't know whether to say 'excuse me,' just keep walking, or push your way through or past the disgusting Public Display of Affection that is the only thing keeping you from getting to your next class. I realize that not all of Oyster River's couples are like the aforementioned, in fact, I would say the great majority aren't.

But this is a letter to the people who find it appropriate to suck face in the middle of the senior core or the people who lurk around the elevators canoodling. I'm not sure whether you think people can't see you, or you just want to declare your love in

a very physical way for the entire world to see, or you just think that PDA like that is okay and people don't care. Whatever it is, I want you to know I don't like it. I don't speak on behalf of everyone else in the school, but only for myself. I think it's extremely unnecessary and I only ask you to find a better place to do that sort of thing. I have nothing against you, your relationship or your willingness to show love, but seriously... just do it somewhere else.

AUGUST 19 2006: 1,249 days since the war began - the war in Iraq surpasses the length of WWII.

OPEN CAMPUS: OPEN LIABILITIES



By ROB FLETCHER

United States, where Oyster River's borders are locked tighter than Cuba's between the hours of 7:30-2:30.

In Spain, when 11:00AM rolls around, many of the kids who are able to leave school do just that. Most of the kids leave the school to grab a bite to eat, smoke a cigarette, or return to their homes quickly, and then come back by 11:30, at which point the front-gate door is closed, and remains locked until 2:30.

Having this opportunity to leave the school during the day obviously gives students the option to not return at 11:30, and skip the second half of their day. However, only students in Bachillerato 1 and 2 are allowed to leave school during lunch break, and neither Bachillerato 1 or 2 are mandatory academic levels; Leaving school gives these students the chance to skip classes more easily, but the students also have the option of simply not coming to school, not to mention the fact that the administration doesn't care much about attendance, just as a college professor rarely would take concern over the absence of one of their students. Furthermore, while I was in Spain, I noticed that the majority of the older students would leave, but that they would almost always come back at 11:30 for the rest of the day.

This brings up a second interesting point: Isn't high school supposed to be preparing us for college? At least in the higher levels, high school has always been geared at preparing students for the next step of their education, or for the rest of their life, if that student chooses to not continue in his/her education. Oyster River Junior and Senior students receive other privileges that come with age, such as a core area, parking spots, free periods, and the ability to leave school early/come in late, yet they aren't given enough maturity to recognize the importance of their own education, and take personal responsibility for their attendance.

Motives behind the interests in an open campus lunch vary from student to student, but for a large majority, it's the idea of being able to choose where to purchase you're food. "Food here sucks," said Senior Chris McGann, when asked to comment on why he would be in support of an open campus lunch, "we should have some better options of where to buy stuff." Senior Roxy Robertson also expressed dissatisfaction with the Oyster River cafeteria situation: "The school makes profit off our lunches...so we should be able to go out and choose what we want to eat." What Roxy refers to in this quote is the fact that our high schools lunch

program is generally self sustaining. In fact, it does not really make profit.

"The Oyster River lunch program operates as a self sustaining program, meaning that they use the money generated from selling food to sustain the cafeteria program itself," explained JoAnn Portalupi, School Board chair and mother of this reporter. "For the last couple of years there have been small deficits due to unpaid lunch account balances. This year, for the first time, money has been budgeted in the general operating fund to cover the cost of running the program. Thirty four thousand dollars has been included to cover health care stipends for food service workers."

When asked about the possibility of an open campus lunch, Chairman Portalupi replied: "That's a discussion that would begin at the building and district office level before coming to the school board. I'm not sure how the Board would react. The question hasn't come before the board in recent history." The fact that the issue's has not been raised at the school board level in recent history is surprising to me, considering how many times it's been covered in our own MOTR, and discussed among the student body.

The idea of an open campus lunch doesn't strike me as impossible, and after living with that freedom for five months in Spain, it even strikes me as rather unfair that we aren't allowed the privilege. However, in an interview with Oyster River High School teacher Dave Hawley, I learned that the issue itself is more complicated than just trusting students. The real complication lies in the issue of liability.

"I have no objection to the idea," responded Hawley, when asked to share his feelings on the matter, "I think the reason we don't have it is liability. 30 years back, it was common to find, but more towards the 70's and 80's, there were more restrictions enacted among students because of the perceived liabilities of their actions. In Europe, liability is a smaller issue than here. Whether or not students would skip class and whatnot are real concerns, but I think they're secondary to liability."

It is true that in our day and age, liability is definitely not an issue to be taken lightly. I personally believe that the issue itself shouldn't be of such a concern, but that's part of a larger problem than Open Campus lunch. I assume that a possible option would be to make students' parents sign liability forms, which would temporarily remove their children from the responsibility of OR high school, at least while they were off campus.

Many people feel that Open Campus lunches should be available to only the older students, just as it was in Spain. "It should be an upperclassmen thing," commented Chris McGann. McGann's suggestion certainly might facilitate the issue of liability, and indeed is logical in the sense that upperclassmen students are more responsible, and therefore should arguably have the maturity to handle such a privilege.

My personal belief is that the right to leave school should be open to all upperclassmen, and if not that, then at least to students with 18 years of age. Living in Spain showed me a situation in which students were given freedom regarding their academics, and learned to make the right choices, because the freedom they were given taught them to take responsibility for their own learning. Perhaps the issue here in the US is more complicated. Perhaps in our day and age, liability will forever suppress the possibility of an open campus lunch. Perhaps it's our countries tight-wound system of blame, where law suits can quickly be at the tip of any "victim's" fingertips, and is always on the edge of their mind. If so, that's a separate issue to address, I just think it's a shame that students aren't allowed to leave and grab themselves a bite to eat. The school isn't responsible for students past 2:30, why couldn't they make the lunch break from 12:00-12:45 work the same way?



Your typical high school. Courtesy of Google images.



Open gates, coming soon to ORHS? Courtesy of Google images.



WHEN TO COME FORWARD

The Leigh Avery Incident

"[Sherwood Leigh Avery's] advances first came to the attention of police on May 4, when the 17-year-old girl, who is a senior at Oyster River High School, reported the graphic text messages sent via instant messenger." said a Foster's article from May 15th of last year. "Messages sent by Avery included sexual advances and suggestions for the two to meet up. School officials held a meeting with Avery on May 8 and he was suspended from his position soon after," [Police Chief] Murch said.

When this article ran in Foster's Daily Democrat on May 15th of last year, the Oyster River Community was shocked. One group however wasn't surprised at all: the students. "The biggest surprise in that article was that his first name is Sherwood," said Sam Eggers. Several students, including myself admitted that they felt Avery engaged in "sketchy" behavior, but no one reported any concerns about his interactions with students at the time.

"I think he was really nice, but to the point where it was too nice, like you're getting a little too close," said Senior Chelsea Kolter. "He took things too far, the little things he would say like little

By **MADDY STARBRANCH**

sexual innuendos. Everyone knew it was inappropriate. I didn't speak up because everyone else knew but they weren't saying anything. I kind of just accepted the fact." Kolter's situation was not an uncommon one.

"He seemed nice... A little too nice," said Senior Rachel Wyand. "I didn't say anything because it was all rumors, I didn't want to get involved in a 'he said, she said' kind of thing."

Senior Dragos Maftei agreed, "I just didn't say anything cause it was all rumor to me."

As a whole, students seemed reluctant to speak to an adult about their feelings without definitive proof, or those who did have more information didn't want to be 'that kid'. I was in the same situation. Many students talked to Avery on the internet, which may have been an inappropriate situation in itself. Opportunities were available to speak up, but students were reluctant to do so.

"Any situation that makes you uncomfortable, like if you feel the line between professional and personal has been crossed, it's appropriate to report," said Principal Laura Rogers. "Kids have the right to feel comfortable in their own school. Someone coming forward would have the power or control in that situation. I could say something to the person who's making a student uncomfortable, with or without using their name. Whichever makes them feel supported."

There are plenty of ways to come forward with any situation. "Students can send me an email, signed or unsigned. With an unsigned email, there's less I can do with it but it gives me a heads up," continued Rogers. "It is really helpful if people are direct, instead of just keeping quiet and talking to their friends about it." A student could also have a parent come forward for them, or bring a friend with them. Students shouldn't be afraid of not having proof, because if a student is uncomfortable, that is a big enough problem to report.

What can we learn from what happened? I always thought Leigh was kind of creepy, even before I had any actual reason to suspect. Just like everyone else, I didn't say anything. I didn't have any proof, it hadn't affected me directly, and most of all I didn't want to be 'that girl.' It's amazing how many people knew, and how no one said anything to an adult. We need to realize that when we are uncomfortable, something is wrong. Any situation that a student feels is inappropriate is. He or she shouldn't hesitate to report it. Hopefully a situation should never last as long as the Leigh Avery one, and no one will be quietly uncomfortable at our school again.



"[Leigh] took things too far, the little things he would say like sexual innuendos. Everyone knew it was inappropriate."

~ Seniors Chelsea Kolter



"I feel like everything was blown out of proportion. Leigh's a good guy, he's just misunderstood. What happened was regreatable, but I don't necessarily think less of him for it."

~ Senior Max DiSesa



Mel and Roxy being super materialistic.

ARE YOU SUPER MATERIALISTIC?
Do you appreciate what you have? Are you privileged, lucky yet surprisingly unhappy with life? Find your guidance! Check out Alina's article on page 28!



By ALINA HARRIS

THIS IS EMBARRASSING!

Every day we enjoy hundreds of luxuries without batting an eye. Why? Because we take them for granted. This may not be true for everyone, but I'm going to take you through a hypothetical day in the life of a somewhat typical Oyster River attendee. Think of the way that you generally wake up. Alarm clock. Either that, or a cell phone alarm. Either way, that usually means that you have electricity in your home. You hop out of bed and turn on the light. Bingo; electricity again. Jeez, it's freezing in here as you look at your thermostat that says 60. (Oh please.) You go to take your warm shower. Running water. You get out of the shower and brush your teeth. Priveledge. I bet you never thought of brushing your teeth as anything but a chore. In Morrocco they sell little twigs in the street that they some how pass off as toothbrushes. Just think about how lucky you are that you actually have teeth to brush. You walk back into your room and go to "pick out" what to wear. "Pick out." It says it right there.

You probably have a least more than one outfit. Mega spoiled. You walk down stairs (yes, more than one floor) to the refridgerator. A large cold box full of food that you don't need to hunt down or grow, right at your fingertips. Hmm, what shall I have today? While you eat your breakfast, perhaps you'll take a look at some channels on your cable TV. Then you'll rush off to your car. If you have your license, my survey spells out that about 86% of you will have your own personal car. Sarah Anderson, a Junior of OR coments on the topic of cars. "We complain about the price of gas, but the fact that we actually have the car to put gas in is one thing. And how about the other fact that we don't live in those war struck countries where we get the oil?"

"I'm so tired; I hate school," is probably one of the first few phrases that you hear throughout your day. I could probably quote 100+ people on that overheard. I mean, I could ramble on and on about how it's a privilege to be in school, but I think you get the picture by now.

"Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen." writes Craig R. Smith, Author of Made in the USA: Spoiled brats, "No wonder the world loves the U.S., yet has a great disdain for its citizens. They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we don't have, and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here."

"Very few people I know are grateful," echoes Sophomore Marissa Kang. "I would say most are pretty ignorant of what they have." Senior Greg Johnson slashes the link between material wealth and happiness. "Our culture over the years has put pressure on the people to have material goods to make them happy, and frankly it's just not true, and I think that's why people take them for granted." Senior Keely Ryan seconds the fact that money doesn't buy happiness. "I see the constant strive to have more of something that [students] might not necessarily need, when I know that energy and excitement for those things could be better spent on the many treasures-for free-outside in our backyards."

"Woah, I didn't realize I had it so good," remarks Senior Mark Nicholson, while completing his survey. This was the general theme of what I heard people say in response to the survey. I thought it was admirable when a student who didn't have the financial ability to go to college made a similar comment at the bottom of their survey. "Wow, I take things for granted." This student may not have the funding to continue on with college after high school, but they surely have recognized a life lesson that many millionaires may not even realize. Senior Dragos Maftei puts in his two cents. "I think most people don't even have malicious intent. It's because of the way that we were brought up, we naturally take things for granted."

Is it the way we are brought up? Is it our surroundings that we compare us to that make us potentially brats? Greg Johnson heavily agrees. As with every student that I interviewed, he thought that in our "commonly known as middleclass-fairly wealthy community" that people "DEFINITELY" take things for granted. "It's almost human nature to say if you give people things of material wealth that we as humans are never satisfied and constantly keep searching for more things to make us happy. Why do you think the marketing and advertisement industry is a multi-billion dollar industry? Our society has bombarded the people with messages that material wealth brings true happiness--because that just rakes in more cash for those who advertise it."

Are we the brats that Craig R. Smith makes us out to be? Yes and no. I can't sit here and make a huge generalization about who is thankful for what. What I do know is that you never can be too thankful. I tend to hear people complaining about little things. "Half way through my shower the water turned cold!" Oh, heaven forbid! There are proably millions of people who don't have access to water in general who would love to have the luxury of taking a cold shower. You should be dissecting every little part of your life, every day, and challenge yourself to recognize the thousands of luxuries we overlook every day. There are simply too many to count.

Thank the heavens for a boring day.

- Some stats on the happy, healthy students at Oyster River High School!
(From a survey of 72 random students, although the majority are probably upperclassmen)
- 11% aren't happy with their overall current lifestyle.

2.8% don't have heat at home.

8.5% don't have cable TV.

100% have electricity.

100% can go to highscool.

4.2% don't have internet.

36.1% have their own computer

29.2% have their own lap top.

34.7% have access to a computer.

29.6% don't have AC at home.

1.4% don't have access to a warm shower (although you can take them at school)

1.4% don't have plumbing.

5.6% of students' families aren't in good health.

9.9% don't have health insurance.

1.4% don't have access to clean drinking water at home.

100% feel safe during their daily life.

17.3% of students' parents bought them a car and pay for their gas.

41.4% of students' parents bought them a car but they pay for their own gas.

11.4% bought their own car.

11.4% don't have a car.

18.5% didn't have a license.

5.6% didn't treat themselves out to food in the past month. (ex. A slice of pizza at DHOP)

100% have a way to dispose of their trash.

14.2% haven't gone on vacation/stayed in a hotel in the past year.

9.9% of students' parents don't have a job.

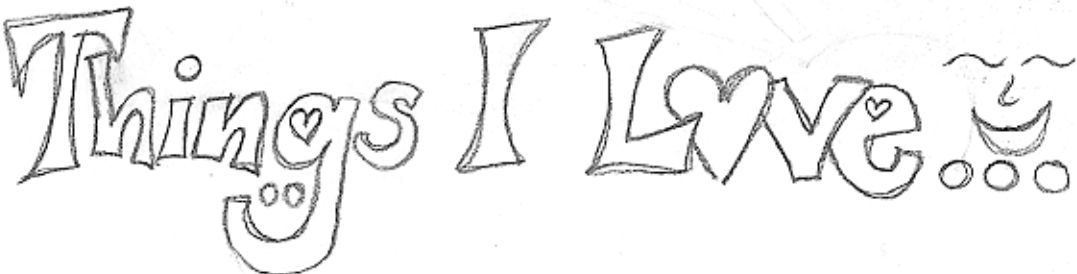
45.7% of students' don't have a job.

23.9% get "allowance." (their parents give them money for essentially no reason.)

9.9% don't have the financial ability to go to college



By ALINA HARRIS



FOOD I mean, it's a necessity to survival. Of COURSE it's amazing. When you're eating something it's like a little party going on in your mouth. In my opinion, one thing that you should NEVER do is discriminate against food. Why would you be picky and limit your choices to delight? If you don't like a type of food, try it again. If you do this year after year with an open mind, you'll end up acquiring the taste.

I wanted to give a quick list of my favorites, but the truth is that I would just ramble on for pages about my love of food. An admirable thing that my cousin Maxim Harris makes a point of doing is thanking his food. This is a little bit different from saying grace. He sits there and thinks of every single ingredient that is in his food and traces it back to where it is derived from, then thanks each and every item.

MUSIC/SINGING/WHISTLING This is a way of expressing emotions beyond words. If you can't whistle, I hiiiiighly suggest that you try and try until you can. What better way to sing a song if you don't remember the words? I also noticed that singing or whistling can turn around a bad mood. One morning on the way to school I was with my mother and for whatever reason we weren't in the best mood. I suggested that we each sing a song. By the end of the ride we were smiling and laughing. This is similar to when Maria in the sound of music sings about her favorite things when "the dog bites or the bee stings."

Things I Love - Continued on the next page.

Things I Love -Continued from previous page

BEING AIRBORNE Jumping off of Wiswall Bridge. Letting go at the peak of your rope swing. The split second that you're off the ground when you're skipping with glee. When someone picks you up and twirls you around. When you're on a plane to somewhere new and exciting. When you hit a jump and your stomach drops. When you stand on your sibling's shoulders and they spring you out of the water.

DANCING Structured dance, or just lettin' your free bird fly. Dancing feels GOOD. How many times have you heard someone say "I don't dance." Large mound of BS. This is just connecting your body movements to the rhythm of some good beats. Not only does it feel good, but it's a fantastic way to work out. You should never feel embarrassed about dancing, nor should you ever make fun of anyone's style of dancing.

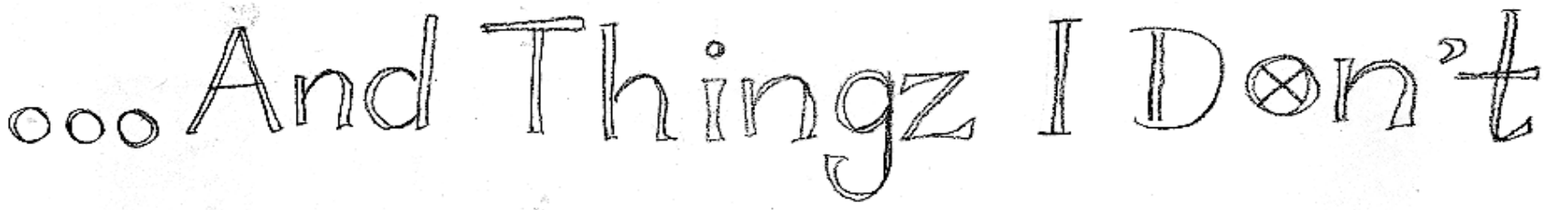
SMILES/HAPPY PEOPLE It's contagious! So you happen to smile at one person in the hallway. They turn the corner and smile at the next. This goes on and on from smile to smile for miles and miles. Next thing you know, everyone in China's walking around with a grin on their face.

FIRE' There's nothing like it. On the couch next to the fireplace stroking your cat. Near the woodstove with your young love. Roasting marshmallows around the bon fire. Eating breakfast by candle light with your Mom.

NATURE--SUN/MOON/STARS I have a suggestion. Every night before bed go on a short walk outside. You'll be filled with wonder. In such a rural area, we have some of the best stars. The moon speaks for itself.

THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE/COMPLIMENT 'It seems to me as though so many people are silently complimenting their peers in their minds but it never makes it out of their mouth to tell the other person. So many people, teenagers specifically, are insecure. Think about how just one compliment out of the 800 people that they see every day could possibly solidify their sense of self. Maybe we wouldn't have girls wearing gobs of makeup and being anorexic. Maybe all of the shy guys would begin to find their voice.

CURIOSITY This is what makes us ask silly questions or do stupid things. This is what gets us into trouble. This is the aspect of us that wants to learn. This is what makes us remember the things we learn. Hold it close; it's a gem.



GIRLS NOT ASKING GUYS TO SADIES Aww c'mmon girls, this is the one time where you are expected to do the asking. If you don't have a crush on someone, then bring a friend! Guys end up getting down on themselves that no body asked them, when in reality, hardly any girl asks any guy! "Man up."

FAKE TANNING Are you really that vain to risk getting cancer for a couple weeks of possibly feeling good about yourself? If that's the level you've stooped to, I honestly consider counseling because most likely you have a problem with your personal image. Did you know that the UVA rays emitted from tanning booths are two to three times more powerful than usual sunlight? (<http://womenshealth.about.com>)

MATERIALISTIC PEOPLE' Don't even BEGIN to think about measuring either your parents' or boyfriends' love for you by how much they spend on you. Don't fool yourself into thinking that you're an amazing person because you have a nice car and diamond earrings. Nobody except for the shallow and materialistic people are going to like you any better judging your new purchases.

PEOPLE BRINGING THEIR BACKPACKS INTO THE LUNCH LINE' Puhhleaaase just leave your backpack in your locker or drop it off at a lunch table before going into the ever-crowded lunch line. I think that we'd all agree that we are claustrophobic enough in there. There's nothing more frustrating than someone's big 'ole back pack getting in the way of snatching the last Senior Sub on Wednesdays.

DRAMA if you like flipping out and being overly dramatic, do us all a favor and take up ACTING. You might even find that you actually have a talent that doesn't include talking s*** about other people and hurting their feelings.



Nothing like being airbourne!
Courtesy of Google Images

BORING/CLOSE MINDED PEOPLE Variety is the spice of life. If you are a blank sheet of paper, you're bringing nothing to the table. You keep people engaged by being interesting. Don't read magazines in order to figure out what to wear and how to act. Stir up your daily life style. Theoretically or physically try something new on for size.

LIES "There's nothing worse than a liar." If you lie to me, I will never again consider you a true friend. I personally have never been into lying, but from what I hear, it's really hard to remember all of the extravagant stories that you dreamt up and told people. Telling the truth is so straight forward, natural, and simple. Honestly, (haha) it's just the right thing to do.

CONTROLLING GIRLFRIENDS/BOYFRIENDS Love is a very powerful thing. This is precisely what has led me to temporarily or permanently losing very good friends. If you're ditching your best friends week after week for your girlfriend/boyfriend you have a serious problem. Either you're going to break up and you'll be heartbroken and friendless, or you'll get married and still have no friends.

CHECK OUT PANDORA.COM! It's an online radio that's tailored to your personal musical taste. Type in any category and it will play you a whole host of songs in that style. Don't like the song that's playing? Click the thumbs down button and it won't play that music style again. I thoroughly suggest that you make your own account and go on an adventure by exploring the unknown musical world!



By CHRIS HALL



"I don't really like it." - Eli Dippold



"It's a wanna-be-rootbear." - Ellen-Claire Slepian



"It's awesome." - Jake O'Leary



"Crunchy, yet satisfying." - Jillian Ziegler



"It's good." - Josh Park



Kara Henn was unpleasantly surprised by Moxie.



"Oh my God that's fizzy, ew." - Lisa Hoff



"It tastes dry." - Aileen Connors



"It's horrible, bitter stuff." - Mrs. Wotton



An unidentified victim of Moxie.



"I think it tastes like the most delicious wood in the world." - Paul Igoe



"It tastes like Heaven." - Nora Armstrong



"...not as bad as I remember." - Mr. Maynard

The cheesy plastic guitar holds heavy in his fatigued hands, as the song slowly ends. His eyes twitch, and with intense precision and skill, the bonus notes are skillfully played. This band of plastic fake instrument devices has just completed a grueling set list, in the screaming arena of the basement. There is only one thing that will refuel these tired souls. It is the liquid in which for some, life itself flows.

And in every life, there is birth. The drink was first concocted by mastermind Dr. Augustine Thompson in Lowell Massachusetts in 1876. However, the doctor's birthplace, Union, Maine, is considered the birthplace of Moxie. It was marketed to cure a wide range of illnesses from impotence to dementia.

However, the Moxie that you know today in soft drink form was first made in 1884, and became America's favorite soda up until the 1920s. The drink has definitely gained a sort of cult status, and in July there is a very enthusiastic Moxie festival in Lisbon Falls, Maine. However, I feel that the real mystique behind the elixir is how some people love it, and some people really hate it. But as some say, the best art is always polarizing "It nauseates me," says Senior Hooram Nam, after his Moxie experience at the epic 24 hours of Star Trek event. He is not alone in hating the "Distinctly Different" soda, in reference to the company's old motto. "I didn't really like it, it had too much of an aftertaste," says Senior Susannah Davis on her first Moxie impression. The taste is definitely debated amongst Moxie drinkers and undrinkers alike. "It's a blend of Dr. Pepper and Pepsi, I guess," says an unenthusiastic Steve "Dirtyboy" Wilson. However, I don't think that the flavor can be summed up so simply. Other people have more creative ideas of the curious taste left in the mouth after chugging Moxie. "It tastes like Listerine," says Junior Erin Chilcott. "The wood/bubblegum flavor just mixes together perfectly," says Moxie enthusiast Luke McCarthy.

No matter what it tastes like, I think that Moxie is loved and hated for the same reason; it is basically about trying something different. I think that un-drinkers are afraid of the physical joy and psychological pleasure associated with the consumption of Moxie. Moxie helps you get in touch with your inner self, as you ponder the curious sensations you receive while drinking it. In other words, a rock band, fueled by the power of Moxie, will surely rock till dawn. I am positive if all of the world leaders drank Moxie, the wars of the world would fizzle out like a freshly cracked can of the golden nectar. If the Buddha were alive today, I am sure that Moxie, in place of the usual tea, would be passed amongst the holy monks high in the mountain monasteries. Even if you abhor the taste, you cannot deny the power Moxie has on humanoid beings. Moxie certainly has a very important place in the history of the world, if not the universe. If our universe is to implode under the most cosmic of forces, I believe that the spirit of Moxie will survive, and a new universe will be formed from the sacred molecules, creating a new order of Moxie-based-beings.

But this is far into the future. For now, Moxie is only the humble elixir of those who boldly eschew the dull world of the common soft drink. A Moxie enthusiast who requested to identified sums it all up. "Moxie did to soda what Jesus did to Christianity."



By **MAX HARRIS**

IF WE BUILD IT, WILL THEY COME??

never ended up with a park. At that age we were somewhat lost in translation. Where was the disconnect? We wanted our skatepark and never understood why it didn't happen for us. Now, years later, someone has picked up the flag and is trying to push forward with creating a safe place for Durham kids to skateboard where they won't be getting yelled at and angering local business owners or residents.

Who is this valiant skateboard hero, the voice for the extreme kids of the town? No doubt some extreme parent who skateboards and takes their kids skydiving regularly, right? Wrong. The leader of this group is Catherine Leach, an unassuming member of the parks and recreation committee on the town council. "We are happy to admit that we aren't skateboarders, and we really don't know much about it. We just want to facilitate."

"I think the subject has been talked about a few times over the years, but we realized that it needed to happen for the kids. We had a few meetings, but at that time we really didn't know where it would go. Then an adult from the town came to us with the idea of using a piece of Woodridge." The idea is fairly simple. Get

"Anywhere I skate I get yelled at. Cops take away our boards, even threaten to arrest us. All we want to do is have fun."

~Mark Nicholson

students together to reconfigure the basketball court and create their own park.

"We want it to be student designed and built," says Leach. "Our biggest problem will be money, but



Mark Nicholson, skateboarding illegally at the high school

we are trying to get donations from Durham Public Works. All sorts of stuff, from granite slabs to rails, anything the designers want built. Most of the students don't think we need any big, fancy equipment, just some stuff to play on."

"It's sick because I used to have to skate around Holloway and stuff so the cops would screw us over. It would be sweet to have somewhere to go," says Oyster River Freshman Joseph Fletcher. A

place to skate seems to be a common cry for Durham residents. "Anywhere I skate I get yelled at. Cops take away our boards, even threaten to arrest us. All we want to do is have fun," says local skater Mark Nicholson. The nearest park for many skaters is Rye Airfield, where it costs over \$10 for just 3 hours of skateboarding. "I love to skate, but it's just too expensive to go [there] very often," sighs Oyster River Senior Ty Guarino.

Len DiSesa, the Deputy Chief of Police in Portsmouth had only positive things to say about the skateboard park that they have there. "We have a skateboard park in Portsmouth and we feel that it is a much more positive place for students to practice those sorts of things than on private property or around the town. I would say building a park would be a good idea." Having somewhere to go could keep kids out of trouble. When kids go to such a park, it keeps them from causing problems in town. "If they build something that the kids will use, it will give them a place to go and hang out, instead of going to the University and getting yelled at," says Principal Laura Rogers.

Skateparks also tend to be great places for graffiti, because skateboarders appreciate that style of art. Having somewhere to "tag" will keep graffiti out of other areas of town.

Some people, however, are still disappointed that more can't be done. "Durham is a rich town, and should be willing to put some money into recreation," says Nicholson. There is no doubt that Woodridge may not be the most convenient location, but the important thing is that it is a realistic possibility.

In any case, this park will be a great start for teenage recreation in Durham. "We just want to start low-key, and maybe if there is a big response and another opportunity, we will be able to work with the town and expand." Finished Leach.

Unfortunately, since it is still so early in the planning stages, there is little to be found regarding details for dates and such. If you want to know more, get involved!

Interested?? Want to know more?? Email Catherine Leach at leachfam@comcast.net. The current project involves having interested skaters from around the town take pictures of the kind of features they would like to see, so send your pictures in, and get involved!



Catherine Leach, The driving force in the Durham Town Council for our park.

No One Cares

What have we done?



By LUKE MCCARTHY

"No one cares anymore. People used to go to basketball, hockey, soccer, lacrosse games all the time back then. I think it's a reflection on the chemistry of the senior class with rest of the school. '05 was the greatest class, and games were good back then." Senior Paul Igoe is referring to the lack of sports enthusiasm demonstrated by the student body over the last 3 years. As anyone deemed 'captain obvious' would



Kids of the old trying to make good for the kids of the new. Did they succeed?

observe, there has been nearly no interest within the student body towards any sporting event at Oyster River.

There have been several attempts to shock the crowds back into shape by the administration and faculty, namely Oyster River's Athletic Director Don Maynard. Through the 'Blue Crew' and 'Tees for Threes', Maynard has arguably increased the support of our teams by a bit; however no widespread success has been seen. Maynard explains "I refuse to think that it is a lack of school spirit. I believe that kids here at Oyster River are just really busy with their own teams and groups. Here at Oyster River there is varsity and JV basketball, hockey, track, swimming, diving, math team, and even someone who wrestles. Comparatively, at Coe Brown there is basketball, cheerleading, and a new track team. Oyster River kids are busy with athletics and their studies."

This does not translate to a lack of success from our coaches and athletes. We have had a number of state championships over the past three years, from Girls' Basketball in 2006 and Boys' Indoor Track in 2007. There have also been a few runner ups, naming Boys' Hockey this past year and even Boys' Cross Country in 2006. Ariel Wachowiak has a different opinion though. "I believe the lack of fans hurts the team. When the school doesn't watch, the team doesn't get mentally prepared for it. It turns something powerful into...well nothing."

As Jill Friel puts it, "Oyster River fan base has become a

joke. When I look in the stands I see two boyfriends and 12 parents. During the boys' basketball holiday tournament, there were three over times and 2 buzzer beaters by our team and when I asked people to stand up for the third and final overtime they looked at me like I was crazy. Coe Brown has got a crowd that makes it tough to play over there and we have empty seats and crickets."

Currently, the Boys' Basketball team has seen great success in their season. "I wish people would care like they used to, you know, like 4 years ago," Trevor Maynard explains. "I remember being a freshman and being excited because all the upper classmen were freaking out about the game that night. It got you excited for your senior year."

Although there have been many parents of athletes seen time and time again at the girls' basketball games, the number of Oyster River students talleys in the single digits. John Petrovitsis has been seen at nearly all of the girls b-ball games, however it is widely suspected that he is only there because his girlfriend is one of the starters.

"As a runner, I want people to come and watch our track meets at UNH. But I know that that's never going to happen. It's sad that kids aren't even going to basketball and hockey games. If no one goes to any popular games, then no one will ever start going to something like a track or swim meet," quotes Stephen "Dirtyboy" Wilson.

"Say I am sitting around the house, you know, with some

No One Cares continued on next page...



We Shoot! We Score! Too bad you weren't there to see it.

No One Cares Continued...

friends or even just people, and they're all bored. I would never suggest we go see an Oyster River sporting event," Ryan Daly explains. "It just wouldn't happen." It is certainly true that many people have that mind set. At a recent basketball home game, there were more fans from Coe Brown than Oyster River.

What is the cause of this lack of enthusiasm? Paul Igoe thinks it is because the senior class does not mesh with the school very well. However, if this theory is true, it means that Oyster River has not had a meshing senior class since '06. Chelsea Kolter thinks otherwise. "I believe it has something to do with increasingly strict rules there are at the gym. The administration seems to be trying to "crack down" on kids that are only going to have fun. Things such as yelling to or bringing pots and pans to bang together have been recently frowned upon by our faculty and administration."

"I certainly do remember freshman year, with the pots, pans, and banners flying through the air. All we have now are Tees for Threes," comments Derrick Kotlus.

"Lame. Very lame," quotes two sophomores, Jake O'Leary and Kyle Milner, in perfect unison.

Where is this going? Is there hope for sports interest at Oyster River? As Timmy McDonnell says, "Probably not."



DJ Roberge proves that interest in sports ain't dead.



By LUKE MCCARTHY

SUPER SMAAASH BROTHERS!



All Smash Photos thanks to www.smbhq.com

We've all seen Braveheart, right? On Saturday morning of the 9th of February, the air was misty with the fog of battle. I entered the multi-purpose room into a sea of grit, determination, and rage, similar to the Battle of Stirling Bridge. One could hear the blood-boiling screams of the defeated, along with the courageous chants of the victorious. These warriors wielded their controllers as if sword and shield, all attempting to be the best.

Super Smash Brothers was the name of the game, played on 1996's N64. It was double elimination, 2 vs. 2, and about as rambunctious as a bull in a china closet. "The gaming festivities were one to rival KB's (Caleb Evans) birthday party," said Robert Fletcher. Fletcher and his younger brother Joseph won 3rd among the 26 teams.

The event was brought to us by the Junior Class Senate as a fundraiser. It cost 10 dollars per team to compete, and they asked all participants to lend them their old N64 systems and controllers.

Who won the prestigious honor of best smashers in the school? "We did, Luke, we did," explains Stephen "Dirtyboy" Wilson. Yes

Dirtyboy, yes we did.

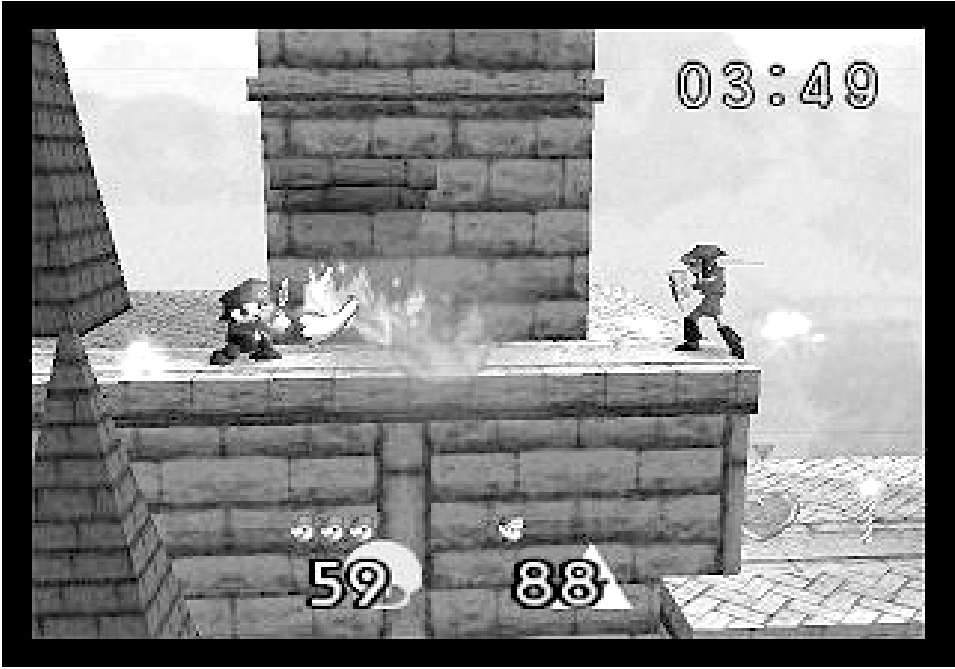
As Daniel Olken, who won second place along with Brian Kim, explains, "Dirtyboy and Luke really outplayed the competition when the lives were low. Dirtyboy knew how to stay alive and Luke really screwed around with

everyone's heads. It was those damn bombs."

John Owens explains "The championship round was dripping with intensity. I could smell it in the air. It was Luke and Dirtyboy against Brian and Dolken, and I will never forget it. Luke and Dirtyboy were down to one life each, and Brian and Dolken had 3 and 2. Yet they made a comeback. I almost pooped myself."

Yet perhaps he

did poop himself. As Brian Kim rationalizes, "I only loss because of that aroma of stench radiating from the crowd behind me. Smelt like human feces."



INJURY OF THE MONTH

By CAYLEE DOYLE



Imagine yourself, waking up to an early morning, thinking you are going to have an ordinary day at the rink playing hockey. Before you know it, you're flat down on the ground wishing you could go back in time and fix the injury that just happened to you. You never would have thought you would be stuck in a cast for the next few months.

Injury Rating: GiGi, I am going to give your injury a B-. Your injury did seem pretty painful, but all you needed was crutches, but the fact that you couldn't drive was a real bummer.

Injury of the month - GiGi Crudele

- 1) What is your injury?
"I sprained my MCL, strained another ligament, tore another, and dislocated my knee cap."
- 2) What sport were you playing at the time?
"Hockey for the Dover stars. I would have played for the high school team but I got injured a couple days before the season started."
- 3) How did the injury happen?
"I was going down the rink for a save, I fell on the ground and the girl shot up, so I got up to get the puck and I fell right back down on my right knee."
- 4) Do you remember any thoughts going through your head at the time?
"I wasn't really thinking that much. I was just like "oh weird, something in my knee is popped." I told my coach but I played the rest of the game."
- 5) Did you think the injury may have been worse?
"Of course, I'm sure if I fell a different way it could have been worse."
- 6) How long are you left in a cast?
"Well, I am out of it now, but I was in there for long enough."
- 7) How does it feel not being able to do certain things because of it?
"Not being able to drive sucked. I had to get driven everywhere by someone else. I couldn't hang out with friends a lot of the time because of it."
- 8) What was the most painful part of the whole injury?
"When I first hit the ground and my knee popped."
- 9) When will you be fully recovered?
"Well it's been a little while since the injury, I am basically off everything now, but I'm still with physical therapy and am not allowed to play hockey still."
- 10) What were the circumstances of your untimely demise? (casts, crutches, etc)
"I had to use crutches, and a brace {full leg}."



BLAST from the PAST these were all taken during the last few months of 2004. Flip the page for more!



Ski Costs...
Arm and Leg?



By CAYLEE DOYLE

You pack your bags and throw your skis on top of your car and you're ready to go. It's an early Saturday morning and you are extremely blissful at the sight of fresh powder of the mountain you are attending. Finally you have arrived to the mountain and you're ready to pay... your whole life savings!

Maybe you have heard it before, or maybe you have experienced it, but the costs of mountains are becoming extremely high in costs and lots of people are having a hard time trying to afford it. Around the northern area of New Hampshire, skiing is a very popular activity that many students like to do. Many of those students only have part time jobs and cannot afford the costs all of the time. Are the costs of resorts causing many teens to have to pass up going skiing and snowboarding?

"I think the amount of money you have to pay to go skiing is ridiculous!" says Gigi Crudele, Oyster River junior. "I mean, if you are skiing a lot, you might as well get a season pass because day trips are so expensive," says Crudele.

Skiing can be a very competitive and fun sport for many of us. Due to high costs, a lot of people are unable to attend skiing more than once a year. Even though the prices are extremely high that doesn't stop many teens from going.

"Freshmen year my family and I went to Utah to go skiing because it was less expensive to fly out there and pay then a weekend at Sugarloaf," says Christina Stacey, Oyster River Senior. "Plus the snow is a lot better out there!" says Stacey.

Really, depending on which mountain you go to depends on the costs. Usually, if the mountain is extremely big with a lot of trails, the more expensive it will be. If the mountain is small with limited trails, the price will be lower.

"I think it really depends on how much you go, if you go a lot than I would recommend getting a season pass," says Irene Lemire, Oyster River Junior. "Day trips really aren't even worth the money anymore," says Lemire.

On a typical day of skiing or snowboarding, you are obviously going to get hungry. A small sized candy bar and a small drink can cost up to \$3.00 per item. If you are looking to buy a full meal, you are probably looking about up to 10-20 dollars.

"Food prices at resorts are ridiculous! I wanted to get a simple Reece bar and it was \$3.00, when I could buy it at a store for 50 cents," says Jacob Fournier, Junior at Portsmouth High School.

Lift tickets, food costs, could it get any worse? If you are new to the slopes, you will obviously need to buy a pair of skis or a snowboard, boots, goggles and poles. How much could all your gear actually come too?

"I have atomic ski's that were about \$900.00 on sale. Ski's can get really expensive but it also depends on where you go to get them," says Tucker Macisaac, Oyster River Junior.

So after all, maybe the costs of skis will go down if enough students complain about it enough, or maybe they will just keep rising. There really isn't a way to predict what is going to happen in the future for skiing or snowboarding.



Mountain	Location	Teen Cost	Adult Cost
Wildcat	Jackson, NH	\$49	\$59
Shawnee Peak	Bridgton, ME	\$34	\$49
Gunstock	Gilford, NH	\$39	\$49
Loon	Loon, NH	\$59	\$69
Sunday River	Bethel, ME	\$59	\$69
Canmore	North Conway, NH	\$38	\$49
Attitash	Bartlett, NH	\$59	\$65
Bradford	Bradford, MA	\$38	\$38



BLAST
from
the
PAST
'04



What does this have to do with sports? You Decide! Contact the MOR staff with sugestions and win an honorary spot on this page in the next issue.





FROSHARSITY?

It's True, There Are a Few of Them

By NICOLE REYNOLDS

"I remember just standing out on the field waiting for the whistle to blow," recalls freshman Rhys Huntley, "I was pretty nervous." Being just a freshman on varsity, Rhys had reason to be a bit nervous. As the game proceeded, Rhys played flawlessly, until she got tangled up with another player. "This girl kicked my ankle and I broke it... again," stated Huntley, "a lot of the other players are bigger than you, and being a freshman, they were a LOT bigger than me." It may sound like a bit of a struggle, but all of this is a reality for a few athletic prodigies here at Oyster River.

"It's fun to be with the upperclassmen; we pretty much just make fun on Sun Crew."
~Evan Schultz

As try outs carry on, the numbers of spots left on varsity teams are dwindling. With the amazing athletic ability of incoming freshmen and lack of space on teams, a lot of upperclassmen are being beat out by freshmen for their varsity spots. Are there any hard feelings among the teams? "If they're [the freshmen] good then they should make varsity, but just because they make it doesn't mean that they're going to play," said senior Elliot Davis, former ORHS hockey player. Junior runner David Mistretta agreed. "Freshmen should have an equal

chance. I'm all about equality for freshmen... as long as they're not stupid. I hate immature freshmen."

Other than maybe some jealousy, most players were happy to call freshmen their teammate. "It's fine if they're [the freshmen] that good. It doesn't make sense that if they're at varsity level they would be stuck on JV just because they're freshmen," said senior Christiana Stacey, a girls' varsity hockey player. Varsity hockey player junior Brian Gitschier was on JV his freshman and sophomore year while some freshmen were on varsity, but he didn't seem to mind. "If they're good enough then they deserve it more," said Gitschier, "I don't think that grade should matter, better people should make the team."

Teammates and spectators for the most part seemed to be fine with watching freshmen play at a varsity level, but how do the freshmen themselves feel? Varsity hockey players Dylan Strogen and Evan Schultz are pretty pumped to have made the team. "Being on varsity is really fun. It's easy to fit in with the older kids- they call me Texas," said Strogen. Schultz felt similarly to Strogen. "Varsity is really cool. The kids are a lot bigger than you, but you just get used to it," explained Schultz, "It's fun to be with the upperclassmen; we pretty much just make fun on Sun Crew." If you're thinking that being young on varsity may be overwhelming, you're right. Freshman varsity soccer player Danielle Walcaz explained how she was able to cope. "We won the state championships, and I was there to take it all in. I was kind of just there behind them [the upperclassmen], but it was good because I was able to learn from them and take it all in," commented Walcaz, "I was nervous going into it, but they [the upperclassmen] were really cool and accepted me in." Freshman varsity soccer player Rhys Huntley knew exactly what her teammate Walcaz was talking about. "Being on varsity was so much fun," said Huntley, "I learned a lot from my coach and team. My teammates made it wicked easy for me to get along with them."

Though he no longer plays hockey here at Oyster River, sophomore Ryan Randall understood how freshmen feel. "I think it's pretty cool that freshmen have the skills to make varsity, I was one last year," explained Randall, "it's totally fine if a freshmen beats out a sophomore or a junior for a varsity spot, it's part of sports." Sophomore Devin Roerhig could also relate. "Varsity swimming is a little bit different than most other sports, but I went to New Englands last year so I was considered to be on varsity," explained Rohrig, "it was a lot of hard work, but a lot of fun at the same time."

After all the extra work put in to fit the mold of a varsity player, Huntley said it best, "it's so much hard work, but I love it."



Freshman Danielle Walczak enjoys strutting her stuff with the older kids

It's been a good ski season for Keely Ryan. Though out the season Keely has been placing 1st in almost every race. She's been skiing for quite some time, and on numerous teams such as Holderness, CVA, Etc. Not only has she been competing for the school team but also her CVA team, which takes up a good deal more time. She has shown extreme hard work throughout his season with trying to juggle both teams.



Name:
Keely Ryan

Age:
16

Sport:
Alpine skiing

Team(s):
CVA, Holderness, Oyster River, and Surgarloaf

How long have you been doing this?
I've been skiing since I was 2, but I've been racing For seven years.

Best sports memory:
Going to Austria my freshmen yeah to train with CVA. The entire experience was amazing!

Worst sports memory:
Watching one of my best friends get like 3 gates into the course and then blew out her knee. I remember being at the start and hearing her scream, it's was pretty intense.

What got you into your sport?
I always grew up skiing at sugarloaf, and I just remember hearing about the race program from somewhere and being interested from there. I just started and have been racing

Something unique about yourself?
I'm graduating a year early this year, in order to focus on ski racing, work and hopefully traveling.

What do you love most about you're sport?
I love the fact that it's you against nature, and it shows who can handle that piece of nature the fastest. It brings a real and exhilarating challenge that to me never gets old.

Any superstitions or pre-meet traditions?
Have a good jam session before, or at least a good song in your head. Don't think about it too much and laugh as much as you can.

Any special achievements?
Last year I received the coach's award for my team. I was pretty honored and excited. This year I also started off my season with a second place finish, but I hadn't even skied gates yet until that day, so I was surprised and really happy.



By ANDY STARK

Ricky Hoyt is a phenomenal runner, and that he should be for dedicat- ing all of his time to the sport. Rickey started seriously running his freshmen year and has excelled ever since. A three season athlete, participating in cross country in the fall, indoor track in the winter, and outdoor track during the spring most of his time is consumed with running. You'll likely see Ricky running through town or near the school while not practicing with a team. With numerous broken school records and a winning state team to his name, it should be made known that this kid is fast.

Name:
Ricky Hoyt

Age:
17

Sport:
Running

Team(s):
Oyster River Cross Country, indoor and outdoor track.

How long have you been doing this?
Since Indoor track season (winter) of my freshmen year.

Best sports memory:
Winning states last year for indoor Track.

Worst sports memory:
Getting disqualified at last years New England's indoor track meet for Stepping over some line somewhere on the track that I guess I wasn't supposed to step over or something.

What got you into your sport?
Well freshmen year I was talking to Leigh Ivory about either doing basketball or track for the winter. He said he didn't want that kind of lack intensity. So long story short I tried Track.

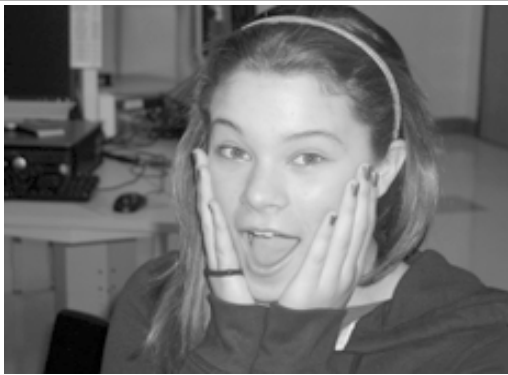
What do you love most about you're sport?
It's a really good feeling when you finish A race and do well.

Any superstitions or pre-meet traditions?
Try not to miss the bus

Any special achievements?
I've set a few school records here and there.



Courtesy of www.facebook.com



OYSTER RIVER ROUNDUP

By NICOLE REYNOLDS

Girls Basketball-

The girls' basketball team is doing a lot better than they were in the beginning of the year, with a record of 8-8. If they're able to keep it together and play like a team, then they should be able to make play offs. Just recently they had a major victory over Coe Brown with a score of 47-23. "I think our team is doing wicked good this year. If we can just keep on doing what we've been doing, then I think we can go far," said junior Kayla Evans. As for setbacks the team has faced? "We were having a little bit of trouble in the beginning of the season but now I think we're doing okay," commented Evans.

Boys Basketball-

The boys' basketball team is undefeated so far this season with a record of 17-0. Just recently the boys beat Portsmouth High School, who also had an undefeated record of 10-0. Things are looking good for the basketball team this year, so if they put in a good effort then they should be able to pull through. Junior Ramzi Bensaid makes predictions for the rest of the season. "If we go out there and play like we can," said Bensaid, "we can play with anyone class I."

Girls Hockey-

The girls are working hard this season with a record of 3-5-2. There have been a few set backs this season, such as their goalie junior Gianna Crudele being out for the season with a knee injury, but they've been able to overcome. If the team is able to place fifth or higher, then they will be able to advance onto state playoffs. "One of our captains, Reegan Carbone, can't play. She's one of our best forwards and she's out with a medical injury," explained junior Daisy Chinburg, "also, a lot of our games were cancelled and probably won't be rescheduled... we want to be able to play the same amount of games as everyone else."

Boys Hockey-

The hockey team is just one game back from 500, with a record of 6-7. The team was big this year, with a lot of young players. Despite the age differences, the boys were still able to pull together to play as team. "We're starting to play better, so hopefully we can keep it together and play well from here on out," sophomore Steven Rohde predicted for the future.

Track-

The track team has been doing extremely well this year. The girls placed third in their state meet and the boys placed fifth. There were a lot of members that placed pretty high in their events, and some athletes are even moving on to New England's. At the beginning of the season there were a lot of students trying out for the team. Junior Sarah Trombley explains the struggles the track team has encountered with such a large team. "It's great to have people interested in the sport, but a lot of people just fooled around," explained Trombley, "It made it really hard to get things done, especially for people who were trying to qualify for states. It got really frustrating." In class I, Ricky Hoyt did extremely well, as did Paul Igoe, who placed 5th in the boys 600m. The boys 4x800 team placed 5th as well.

Swimming/Diving-

It was predicted by members of the team that both the boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams would have a good chance at placing first in their state meet. Indeed this was true. On February 9th, the New England's swimming and diving championships were held at the Field House in Durham. The girls' team took third place and the boys' team took first. "We worked really hard this season, and it payed off in the end," commented junior Tucker MacIssiac. Junior Eryn True sums up the season, "Overall, we're not the most determined bunch of kids, but in the end we always pull through."

Skiing-

As said by members of the team, there was not a lot expected from the ski team this year. Despite the doubts, so far the team is doing really well. They were barely expected to place well in any of their meets, but just recently they placed first in their last race. The ski team is showing a lot of potential. The conditions the team has faced have placed a lot of obstacles in front of them. A lot of their practices and races have been cancelled due to bad weather conditions. The rest of the season, though, shows hope. "We have good talent. The underdog, Helen Segil, is really going to show her stuff," explained junior Sarah Anderson, "she's a freshman and she's been placing really high."



Congratulations to Mr. Maynard for completing the Penguin Plunge Sunday, February 3rd!

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***Lawrence pays for crime,
David Evans still at large...***